

Mandurah Club 52 celebrates 300th meeting in style

Down from the wilds of Kenwick to the shores of Mandurah came the Foothills Club 11 members to join us in celebrating our 300th meeting on 25 November 2009. We at Club 52 are privileged to hold our meetings in the Mandurah Fishing and Sailing Club and, to test our public speaking abilities, we sometimes hold them in the restaurant, as we did this night. Murphy's Law prevailed with a busy night and lots of patrons including some very vocal youngsters. We overcame the chattering classes of Mandurah and had a pleasant, fun filled and memorable evening.



Club business was followed with a Round Robin titled 'If you want to get a head get a hat'. Two large bags were filled with hats and, in lucky dip fashion, we chose our headgear which ranged from 'bunny ears' to a school prefect's cap. While wearing our hats we each gave a two minute impromptu speech about the hat—well, some brought the house down, and the sight of Freeman Elvern Webb sporting lilac bunny ears and regaling us with his alleged 'memories' of time spent with Playboy Hugh Hefner and company will stay with us for a very long time.

A 10 minute break gave us all time to get back to some form of normality and the main speeches. In keeping with the evening's theme two Club 11 members spoke of 300 years in the past and two Club 52 members spoke of 300 years in the future.

'Great speeches, great fun shared with great company' sums up our meeting and we are all anticipating another 300.

June Park Club 52

"Adepts in the speaking trade keep a cough by them ready made." Charles Churchill (1731-1764) British poet

What's on

MAY

- 11 **Speak up Speak out course**
6.30 pm to 9.30 pm
Subiaco Community Centre
203 Bagot Rd Subiaco
- 18 **Dais Board meeting**
6 pm
Joan Watters Centre
Jersey St Wembley
- 29 **Training Council meeting
and adjudication workshop**
8.30 am to 10.30 am
Tom Dadour Centre
363 Bagot Rd Subiaco

JUNE

- 8 **Speak up Speak out course**
details as for May
- 15 **Dais Board meeting**
details as for May

JULY

- 13 **Speak up Speak out course**
details as for May
- 20 **Dais Board meeting**
details as for May
- 31 **Rostrum 80th Anniversary
and Speaker of the Decade**
6 pm for 6.30 pm
City West Function Centre
45 Plaistowe Mews West Perth

Information and course
registration:

Rostrum Information Centre
PO Box 5058, South Lake WA 6164
Phone 08 6364 3411
Fax 08 9467 0505
ric@rostrumwa.com.au

Informer Editor Rose Fogliani

Next issue is May/June. Copy
deadline is 15th May. Please send
notices, articles and photos to
rose.fogliani@agric.wa.gov.au

President's message



This year is a very special year as it is the 80th Anniversary for Rostrum in Australia. We will celebrate this milestone on the same date as the original meeting, 31st July. On that night, we will also have the Speaker of the Decade competition. So, it will be a very special night and I trust all of the clubs will make a special effort to attend in numbers.

'Eighty for Eighty!' will be the catch phrase.

After the success of the 'new look' 2009 Convention, we will be keen to bring another day of innovation, training and competition later in the year. New links between clubs were formed and there was a sharing of ideas about approaches to the challenges clubs find in making their meetings both interesting and a constructive learning experience for all concerned. We all know that our collective membership has to grow for us to survive so Dais has adopted the target of 80 new members in this 80th Anniversary year. 'Eighty for Eighty!' will be the catch phrase.

Early indications show that the new web site is working well, despite some teething issues. I know that many clubs will be behind this aim of increased membership and will take advantage of the web site, but I fear that some will continue to stagnate and not make the effort to improve their lot. I hope I am wrong, and that all clubs increase their memberships, but what I have seen in visits around the clubs leaves me sceptical in some cases. Time will tell.

I ask you all to start thinking now about the roles in club executive and the effort these duties require so that each club can get the best possible leadership when we go into the new terms of office.

Life does have some pleasurable and positive aspects; before Christmas I had the enjoyable task of helping to adjudicate heats of Rotary's Speaking Competition, and in a few days time I will be at Santa Maria College's competition, as an adjudicator. Interest in the skill of Public Speaking is alive and well.

I wish you and your club all the best in this exciting year.

Chris Stone, President

From the editor

"Challenge is the core and mainspring of all human action. If there's an ocean, we cross it. If there's a disease, we cure it. If there's a wrong, we right it. If there's a record, we break it. And if there's a mountain, we climb it."

James Ullman (1907-1971) American writer and mountaineer

After a frustratingly slow start, I can now welcome you to the first *Informer* for 2010. Firstly, thanks to Mat Lane for his tremendous work putting together the newsletter for the past three years; I'm beginning to realise that it isn't an easy undertaking and he's left some large boots to fill. Mat, now that you have your evenings and weekends back, enjoy!!

I joined Rostrum for the challenge, and because I needed to overcome the fear of speaking to large audiences as part of my work. Because "it's there and it's a challenge" is the reason this scientist is now trying her hand at being a wordsmith! Getting involved with Rostrum took me out of my comfort zone, taught me about effective communication and helped tame the butterflies when faced with an audience. I hope, and expect, that by working on the *Informer* I'll learn some useful skills, and I'm looking forward to meeting and getting to know other like-minded Rostrum members in the process.

Many clubs will soon be electing new office bearers for the second semester. Clubs, like households and businesses, don't run themselves; they need leadership, as noted opposite by our President Chris Stone. If you've avoided nominating because you feel you haven't the skills, the truth is you'll only get those skills by "doing". To me, that's what Rostrum is all about—learning by doing, with the added benefit of lots of help on hand from experienced members. Here's an opportunity for you to get more from your membership, have a say in how your club is run, and more than likely have fun learning. Why not, it's a challenge!

The focus of the *Informer* remains to *inform* members of what's coming up—special meetings and celebrations in clubs, Rostrum functions and Training Council workshops—as well as articles from members. In addition, just as the Rostrum meeting is a place to learn, so the *Informer* will continue to have a role in educating members. Each issue will include a tutorial covering an aspect of meeting procedure, speaking or communication in general. This month's tutorial on the back page attempts to demystify motions and amendments, the bane of novice Chairmen.

However, while the *Informer* will have well-defined sections, expect it to change and evolve to fit the purpose. The next issue will be May/June, after which it will be published monthly, and eventually in paper format distributed to clubs. A newsletter is only as good as its content. Notices, articles, updates and photos are welcome at any time, but before the deadline of the 15th of the month for inclusion in the following month's issue. Please send contributions to rose.fogliani@agric.wa.gov.au.

Rose Fogliani Club 44

ANZAC Day 2010 – a time to remember and honour

More than 80 people attended Club 15's ANZAC Day meeting to remember and honour Australia's war veterans and witness two very polished West Perth clubs do battle for the ANZAC Debating Trophy.

Club 15 President, Wayne Passmore, reminded us that the purpose of the meeting was to remember the ANZAC spirit and honour war veterans. The theme of this year's meeting was the Merchant Navy.

There were three poignant readings by Club 15 members. Gail Dirk read a letter from a navy radio operator to his father in which he wrote that after witnessing his first air raid he really didn't need to see any others. Clinton Lamplugh read the lyrics of "I was only 19" by Redgum – a song that can always make me cry. Clinton explained that proceeds from the song go to Vietnam veterans. Anna Piscicelli read a poem called "Australia's Best".

Terry O'Meara was the Keynote Speaker with his address on the use of the merchant navy in World War II. Russia needed supplies of trucks, tanks, guns and food and the UK and the USA provided supplies via the merchant navy going through the Arctic Circle. Because boys could join the merchant navy at only 14 years of age, there were some very young men serving on these boats. The extreme cold and the German U-boats were the greatest threats. Sea spray turned to ice and had to be chipped off the deck; gunpowder was too cold to work. One hundred ships didn't return.

Terry illustrated his talk with a hand drawn map of Europe which prompted Master of Ceremonies, Mark Roberts, to recommend some drawing lessons!

The debate topic was "The Merchant Navy is needed for Australia's Defence". Mark Stanhope chaired the debate in the tradition of Club 15, who will use any excuse to get into fancy dress. Tinashe Kamangira, Margaret Heyns and Andy Cairns represented Club 33 on the affirmative, with Jason Lim, Marianne McAdam and Colin Peacock representing Club 19 on the negative. There had clearly been serious research on the topic, with both sides using a Defence Force white paper to bolster their arguments. It was a well argued debate, with the winner being Club 33. Andy thanked Club 15 for organising the event. President Chris Stone presented the trophy, showing off his moustache and signature bow tie, which made him look like Colonel Sanders of KFC fame.

Those who attended had a most enjoyable and thought provoking morning supported by a tasty buffet breakfast. Rostrum members are encouraged to keep an eye out next year for details of the 2011 Anzac Day Breakfast.

Anita Thompson Club 44



The battle over, there were smiles all round. (Photo by Heart Photography)

Seeking potential Freeman – is there one at your club?

One of the highlights of the Annual Dinner last year was the elevation of two Rostrum stalwarts to the status of Freeman. In front of several hundred members, Vice President and Director of Training, Tony Lightman, and Speaker Ken Holzman received the honour of the title of Freeman in recognition of their many years of dedication to advancing the Rostrum ideals through conspicuous service to their club, to Dais and to the community.

The Annual Dinner this year will be held on the 80th Anniversary of Rostrum in Australia on 31 July, the same night as the Speaker of The Decade competition. The announcement of a new Freeman on the night would add considerably to the celebration.

Prospective Freeman are nominated by a club or individual member via a written submission to the Dais President, detailing the nominee's contributions to Rostrum and the

community. Nominees must meet the following criteria:

- eight years of continuous Rostrum membership;
- service within their own club by holding office, and at Dais level as a Dais Rep., on the Dais Board, or as a critic;
- demonstrated use of skills developed in Rostrum in the wider community, in business, the professions or trade;
- an expectation to continue to promote Rostrum in the community and
- exceptional personal qualities as a speaker and citizen.

Is there someone in your club who meets these criteria and who deserves to be recognised for his or her ability, reliability and results?

Preparing a case can be a lengthy process so it is best to get started early. Further information is available from the Chairman of Freemans Council, Freeman David Price.

The railway line principle (how to stay on track)

Meeting procedure is like a railway system – if you think of it as a series of railway tracks, understanding exactly what is happening at a particular time becomes that much easier.

A meeting begins on a main track, as laid down in the agenda. When a motion is moved, it is attempting to take the meeting in a particular direction to a desired outcome or destination. We have travelled along the main track (the agenda) and reached a set of points (the first motion) which will take us to a certain destination – a decision about the issue.

Whilst on the track of this motion, there is nothing else to discuss except that motion because we have only one motion before us and we cannot, as in a train, be on more than one track at once. However, like trains, meetings change track from time to time. Just like points and junctions, these allow a decision to be made in terms of which direction (track) the meeting will take.

Here are three examples of what can happen.

1. A procedural motion is moved.

As we travel on our original track (the substantive motion) to our original destination a person may move a procedural motion. In terms of our railway line this is like a set of points

and we immediately switch to a side track. While we are on that side track we can't talk about anything else because, like a train, we are on one track – the procedural motion track.

While we are on the procedural motion track we have a new destination; it cannot take us to the same destination as before because we're on a different track. When the procedural motion has been dealt with, we move back to either the original track (the substantive motion), or to another track which may be our main track, the agenda.

2. An amendment is moved.

We may be on our first track from the main agenda heading toward our original destination (the substantive motion) and an amendment is moved. This equates to another set of points. When we get to the amendment we decide whether or not to run with it and we move onto the side track – the amendment track.

Just as with the procedural motion, while we are on that track we can talk about nothing else except that amendment.

When amendments are moved, the debate must centre around the amendment and not on the amended motion if the amendment is successful.

The amendment is eventually put and if carried we are back on our original track but with an extra carriage (the amendment) having been attached to the original motion, at the beginning, the end, or anywhere in the middle.

If the amendment is lost we simply back onto the substantive motion track with the same number of carriages as before and we continue towards our destination. The substantive motion remains the same and we now stay on the same track.

3. A procedural motion is moved during discussion on an amendment.

We are travelling on our substantive motion track towards our destination and an amendment is moved so we have now switched to a side track and we're discussing the amendment. A procedural motion is moved during discussion on the amendment and we now switch over to a fourth railway line and here we discuss nothing but the procedural motion. When the procedural motion is dealt with we switch back to the amendment. When the amendment is dealt with we switch back to the substantive motion, then when that is dealt with we switch back to the main track.

Adapted from 'Meeting Procedure Made Easy' by Freeman David Price, who has a blog on everything to do with meetings which is free to subscribe to. Visit www.masterofmeetings.com.



Celebrating 80 years of Rostrum

Speaker of the Decade

Saturday, 31st July 2010

A fun filled evening of speeches and entertainment

*To register your interest, or for more information, please contact Adell Griffiths,
Director of Special Events, on 0418 922 074 or email adell4@hotmail.com.*



80 Years of Rostrum
and
Speaker of the Decade

City West Function
Centre
45 Plaistowe Mews
West Perth

6 pm for 6.30 pm

Adell Griffiths
0418 922 074
adell4@hotmail.com