

## Who will be Rostrum WA's Speaker of the Decade 2010?

Rostrum Western Australia's Speaker of the Decade Competition, in conjunction with the celebration of the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rostrum in Australia, will be held on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> July at the City West Function Centre. Director of Special Events, Adell Griffiths, and her committee have worked hard to prepare a "night of nights" befitting the occasion. Be there by 6.30 pm for what promises to be a great night of speeches and fellowship.

The four speakers below, all recent winners of the Arthur Garvey trophy for the Speaker of the Year, will contest the title of Speaker of the Decade. Best of luck to all of them!



### **Karen Reid Club 34**

Karen was introduced to Rostrum by a friend in 1997 and has said she enjoys the company provided by the meetings, and the discipline involved in exploring topics and preparing speeches. She has a talent for humorous speeches, which she presents with a perfectly straight face, and has a particular liking for stories about 'wee creatures', such as singing ants and peckish church mice. Karen won Club 15's Tall Stories Competition in 1999 and 2008, and the Speaker of the Year Competition in 2001.



### **Lynne Ellis Club 52**

Lynne joined Club 54 in 1995 to meet people outside her own industry. She was encouraged to try competition speaking by a fellow member and hasn't looked back. As a member of Club 54, and later Club 49, she was a regular participant in Rostrum's speaking competitions. 2005 was a particularly good year for Lynne when she won the Tall Stories, the senior section of the Alan Foyster Speaking Competition at Convention, the Speaker of the Year, and was in the WA final of the Sidney Wicks Speaking Competition.



### **Wayne Passmore Club 15**

Wayne joined Rostrum 'many years ago' when he found himself the President of the P&C Association at his daughters' school. 'Rostrum was my saviour!' Like many members before him, Wayne notes that Rostrum has been not only a fantastic learning environment, but a big part of his social life. Already active in Club 15's speaking activities, including the Anzac Day Breakfast Meeting, he entered the 2007 Speaker of the Year Competition after much urging from fellow members. He won with a speech on 'Goodbye to Tolerance and Hello to Zero Tolerance'.



### **Terry O'Meara Club 15**

Terry joined Rostrum Club 18 in Northam in 1977 when he was Shire Clerk in the town. He has been at Club 15 since 1997 and says it's a club which challenges and brings out the best in its members. A driving force and supporter of the club, Terry has participated in the Tall Stories Competition and the Anzac Day Breakfast Meeting. He won the Speaker of the Year Competition in 2006 and 2009, one of only a handful of speakers to have won the title more than once.

# VALE

## Charles Percsy, Foundation and Life Member Club 39



*A final salute to a close personal friend and a passionate ambassador for the Rostrum movement.*

I first met Charlie Percsy in 1979 when we both attended meetings of the Provisional Rostrum Club 39 in Midland and subsequently became foundation members when the club was raised to full membership of Rostrum WA. He was one of the genuine characters of that club as once met he was not easily forgotten. We soon learned that once Charlie was convinced of the benefits of any project he was involved in, he gave it his wholehearted and unstinting support. This was particularly true with Rostrum as over the years he was a great promoter of and ambassador for the Rostrum movement. He was a prime mover in the establishment of the Midland lunchtime Rostrum Club 48 and of the Kalamunda Rostrum Club 24, both of which have now unfortunately closed. Charlie became an accredited Critic in 1982 and from that time on gave unbroken service to several clubs, sometimes two at a time, and continued that service until his health failed. He was also an enthusiastic supporter and promoter of the Voice of Youth competition as he believed passionately in the need to encourage and mentor all young people. He took his enthusiasm and speaking skills outside of Rostrum and ran courses at Curtin University and local schools.

Charlie was proud of his Hungarian heritage and became a District Commissioner of the Hungarian Scouts and a supporter of the Hungarian Folk Dance Association. He was also equally proud of being an Aussie and proved this with tremendous service to the community over the years. He was a family man with an Australian wife, Jean, and four children, three girls and a boy, all of whom he was immensely proud and it was a sad time when Charlie junior was killed in a horrendous car accident.

He was a successful business man, a charter President of the Apex Club of Swan Districts and then a 25-year member of Lions International from which he received an 'Exemplary Service Award'. He became a Justice of the Peace and a Presiding Justice on the bench of the Midland Court of Petty Session for 10 years and also did regular duty at the East Perth lock-up. He established the Midland Justices Centre at the Old Midland Court House and was training officer for

the Swan Midland Branch of the Royal Association of Justices of WA. He was heavily involved in the Bicentennial celebrations and wrote a book, 'To Assist Chairmen and Meetings', for distribution to the several hundred Bicentennial committees in WA. He was involved in a host of other community affairs most of which only his family knew about as Charlie was not a promoter of himself.

I considered Charlie to be a close personal friend and will sadly miss his cheerful approach to life and his constant willingness to offer advice and help on any matter on which he thought he could assist. We were friendly competitors in the club Speaker of the Year competitions in which at times Charlie's knowledge of Latin and his passion for Shakespeare sometimes gave him an edge. On the other hand he would often get carried away on a sidetrack in the middle of a speech and that gave me and other speakers the advantage. He had a great sense of humour and learned to quote the well known line from one of the English comedy television shows, 'It's not over till the fat lady sings'. I cannot therefore think of a better way to say goodbye than to combine Charlie's love of Latin and his sense of humour in a final salute to a great friend. *Vale Charlie, obesa cantavit.* Farewell Charlie, the fat lady has sung.

*From Mike Connelly Club 39, with thanks to Jean Percsy and From Don Duck. Photo courtesy of Percsy family.*

## Young speakers impress in the RVOY State Final

The Rostrum Voice of Youth State Final was once again a very successful day for everyone concerned. The speakers in both the Junior and Senior sections were exceptional and we all believe we have very worthy winners to represent Western Australia in the National Final in Brisbane on 31<sup>st</sup> July. Tom Kerrigan from Bunbury Cathedral College and Shane Chandra from Hale School won the Junior and Senior sections respectively. Both boys are looking forward to facing stiff competition at the National Final. Best of luck!

Adjudicators included Freeman Tony Lightman, Ken Holzman and Ruurd Speelman, Michael Middendorp, Rob Gates, and former Rostrum member, Nadine McCutcheon. Karen Reid ran the short notice preparation for the day. The speakers were well supported by family and friends who were rewarded with a very high standard of public speaking. Both President Chris Stone and Tony Lightman commented that the interpretation of the topics and depth of research demonstrated by many of the speakers was 'well beyond their years.'

Thankyou to everyone who was involved on the day and with the competition this year. Thanks also to Dais for the \$500 contribution to our fundraising efforts.

*Juliet Park, WA and National RVOY Coordinator*

# Meanwhile, under an *Angophora* tree in Brisbane.....

.... the Australian Rostrum Council will hold its 2010 AGM and celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the movement in Australia. Sidney Wicks founded the first Rostrum club called, strangely enough, 'The Rostrum' in Manchester in the UK on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1923. That first meeting was held under a yew tree. Alan Crook and John Roach, a couple of Australians studying in Manchester at the time, joined The Rostrum in 1924.

Back in Sydney on 21<sup>st</sup> July 1930 Alan Crook, Robert Swainson and Stuart McPhee held a meeting and resolved to form the first Rostrum club in Australia (Australian Rostrum No.1). That meeting was adjourned until 10<sup>th</sup> August when the group met again, took the Rostrum promise and signed Australian Rostrum No.1 - and the Rostrum movement in Australia - into existence. That meeting was held on the shores of Middle Harbour under an *Angophora* tree.

(*Angophora* trees are closely related to eucalypts, usually with white flowers, and found mostly in eastern Australia)

## Blue Sky Day

**What?** An informal meeting of Dais Executive to review all aspects of Rostrum.

**When?** Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> August, 9 am to 1 pm.

**Why?** To look in depth at where Rostrum is, what it is doing and how it can be improved, in a way that isn't possible at the monthly meetings.

**Want to contribute?**

Please send your suggestions for agenda items to President Chris Stone at [cstone@iinet.net.au](mailto:cstone@iinet.net.au)

## Speak Up Speak Out Course

This three-hour course in communication skills is designed to give new members a quick start (or current members a refresher!). It is also a good introduction to Rostrum for visitors. It's held on the second Tuesday of every month, except December and January. Expertly facilitated by experienced members of Training Council the course covers:

- dealing with nerves,
- basic speech structure,
- finding something to say.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are provided on the night, as well as ample opportunity to ask questions on any aspect of researching and presenting speeches, and to practise new skills. The course is free for Rostrum members and open to non-members for \$60. Non-members who join a Rostrum club within a month of attending the course receive \$50 credit towards their joining fee.

The next course is on 10<sup>th</sup> August at the Shenton Park Community Centre, 240 Onslow Rd, Shenton Park from 6.30pm to 9.30pm. Registration is essential. Information and registration are available through the Rostrum Information Centre at [ric@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:ric@rostrumwa.com.au) or 08 6364 3411.

## What's on in . . .

### JULY

- 24 **Critics training course, day 1**  
8.30 am to 4 pm  
Shenton Pk Community Centre  
240 Onslow Rd Shenton Park
- 31 **Rostrum 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Speaker of the Decade**  
6.30 pm for 7 pm  
City West Function Centre  
45 Plaistowe Mews West Perth  
see Adell's flyer on back page

### AUGUST

- 7 **Critics training course, day 2**  
details as for July
- 10 **Speak up Speak out course**  
6.30 pm to 9.30 pm  
● **new venue**  
Shenton Pk Community Centre  
240 Onslow Rd Shenton Park  
details on this page
- 14 **Blue Sky Day**  
9 am to 1 pm  
42 Newry St Floreat  
details on this page
- 17 **Dais Board meeting**  
details as for July
- 27 **Dais Reps budget meeting**  
7 pm  
Joan Watters Centre  
Jersey St Wembley

### SEPTEMBER

- 14 **Speak up Speak out course**  
details as for August

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](mailto:ric@rostrumwa.com.au)

Informer Editor Rose Fogliani  
Thankyou for your contributions.  
Please send contributions for the next issue by 13<sup>th</sup> August to  
[rose.fogliani@agric.wa.gov.au](mailto:rose.fogliani@agric.wa.gov.au)

## National Rostrum Membership at the end of 2009

NSW	143
Vic	199
Qld	172
ACT	86
Tas	98
<b>WA</b>	<b>336</b>
<b>SA</b>	<b>284</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>1318</b>



# Saturday 31st July 2010



*Speaker of the  
Decade  
& 80th  
Anniversary*

*6.30 with a 7pm start  
City West Function Centre  
Plaistowe Mews, West Perth  
Free undercover parking available*

*\$80 3 Course  
Meal, Special Dietary Meals Available  
Club members will be seated together  
on request to Adell (see details below)*

## Payment

to be made through Sticky Tickets  
[www.sticktickets.com.au/3666](http://www.sticktickets.com.au/3666)

or  
cheque made payable to  
Rostrum WA

Postal Address (for cheques)

RIC  
PO BOX 5058, South Lake, W.A. 6164

Contact Adell Griffiths  
93678794 H 0418922074 M  
adell4@hotmail.com  
2/67 Preston Street, Como W.A. 6152

*Come along and support*

*2001 Karen Reid (34)*

*2005 Lynne Ellis (52)*

*2006 & 2009 Terry O'Meara (15)*

*2007 Wayne Passmore (15)*

