



ROSTRUM

# INFORMER

November 2013

Newsletter of Rostrum Western Australia

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

## AGSOY FINAL AND ANNUAL DINNER

### SUSAN IS OUR SPEAKER OF THE YEAR 2013

Freeman Susan L'Herpinere fulfilled the pact she made with herself 24 years ago, when she won the final of Rostrum WA's Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year competition last month. So impressed was she by the speakers at the first Rostrum meeting she attended in 1989, she set herself the task to one day be good enough to win the trophy. Her performance at the final on Saturday 26 October won her not only the trophy but also a cheque for \$500. Her winning speech, 'Country of the Blind', examined the role of surveillance cameras in our lives, from locating lost children at outdoor events to solving crimes.

Susan was among friends when she presented her speech – for the second time in Rostrum WA's history, all the finalists were women – Carmel Philippe (Club 64), Freeman Sue Hart (Club 2230), Joanna Whitney (Club 11), Jan Teasdale (Club 21) and Susan (Club 50, Club 11).

Joanna Whitney won the Runner-up prize of \$250 for her speech 'The Last Right', bringing attention to the low level of organ donation in Australia with a story about a grieving mother's dilemma when asked to donate her son's organs after an accident.

Freeman Sue Hart spoke about Australia's 'Identity Crisis'. Many Australians today fear 'illegal immigrants', yet forget that since 1788 all Australians have been migrants who for the most part have contributed much to our way of life. Jan Teasdale's speech, 'Horizons of Expectation', related the story of Tsuzuku Maruyama, a Japanese seaman, whose war diary was found on a New Guinea beach in 1942 and which, through the efforts of Sister Cities Australia, was recently presented to his grandson. Carmel Philippe, speaking on the topic 'Country of the Blind', reminded us that just as a blind person develops other senses in order to 'see' the world, there is more to seeing than eyesight. Perception, imagination and insight all play their part.

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*Speaker of the Year 2013, Fmn Susan L'Herpinere (Club 50, Club 11) with the Arthur Garvey trophy, above. The finalists after a job well done (l-to-r) Jan Teasdale (Club 21), Carmel Philippe (Club 64), Fmn Sue Hart (Club 2230), Runner-up Joanna Whitney (Club 11) and Fmn Susan L'Herpinere, below.*



## What's on in ...

### NOVEMBER

- 29 **Dais Reps meeting**  
**Dais Board Elections**  
6.30 for 7 pm start  
Joan Watters Centre, Wembley
- 30 **Critics Training Workshop**  
9 to 10.30 am  
Tom Dadour Centre  
363 Bagot Rd, Subiaco

### DECEMBER

- 6 ☺ **EXTENSION**  
**Deadline for December**  
**Informer**
- 12 **Dais Board meeting**  
6.15 pm  
Shenton Park Community Centre  
240 Onslow Rd, Shenton Park

Information and course registration:

Rostrum Information Centre  
PO Box 5547  
Canning Vale South  
WA 6155  
Phone 08 9463 6433  
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Email [ric@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:ric@rostrumwa.com.au)

Thank you for your contributions to this *Informer*. Note that the deadline for the **December** issue has been extended to **Friday 6 December**. Please send copy, including a sharp photo of the winner of your **Club Speaker of the Year Competition** and some info about the speaker and the speech, to: [informer@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:informer@rostrumwa.com.au)

Rose Fogliani (Editor)



## THE TOAST TO ROSTRUM

by Joanna Whitney, Speaker of the Year 2012

### The Allsorts of Rostrum

Rostrum is like a bag of liquorice allsorts.

When you dip into that lovely crackly bag there is always something for everyone.

Whatever you pull out will taste a little like the rest, but it will be quite different from the others.

Some of them are pink and black, some plain and long. My favourites are the lovely colourful sandwiches and you can eat one layer at a time. And you always get a few of those strange blue dotty ones at the bottom.

We all reach into the Rostrum bag seeking different things.

Many of us reach in to pull out confidence, the ability to feel relaxed and assured when we stand in front of others and give our opinions. We are looking to develop specific skills and strategies to make ourselves better communicator and presenters.

Some people reach for the wisdom and intellect that comes with a love of language and a deep thirst for knowledge. These are the wordsmiths amongst us who can craft and deliver rich textured speeches laced together with quotes, history and humor.

The show ponies amongst us seek the opportunity to shine. They relish being able to speak uninterrupted for long periods of time and enjoy the illusion that people are listening to them. (Thank God for the warning bell).

And there are those of us who reach into the Rostrum bag for friendship and fellowship. The chance to make and build friends apart from work colleagues and family and the opportunity to get out of the house at regular intervals.

Many of us here tonight are long term loyal Rostrum members who gave up picking and choosing long ago and we tend to just scoff the whole bag. But whatever it is that you are seeking there is plenty in the Rostrum bag to share.

So I ask you to stand and raise your glasses and drink a toast to the all sorts of Rostrum.

'To Rostrum'



## AGSOY Final and Annual Dinner

Members and guests attending the final at Lake Karrinyup Country Club were greeted on arrival with music on keyboard and saxophone by Cambridge Speaking Club member Mark McLeod. The mood and scene thus set, MC Freeman Adrian Grant engaged and entertained the audience, keeping the pace moving through the evening.

Speaker of the Year 2012 Joanna Whitney proposed the Rostrum Toast, likening our organisation to a bag of liquorice allsorts. People come to Rostrum for all sorts of reasons, to gain confidence, to learn something new, to find an audience, for friendship. There is something for everyone and plenty to share in the Rostrum bag.

President Freeman Tony Lightman presented the (R) Alan Crook Award for Club of Excellence to Northern Suburbs Club 2230. President Jo Turbett accepted the trophy on behalf of her club with a gleeful 'Good to get it back!' Albany's Club 63 won the David Price Award for Best Country Club.

Many thanks to AGSOY Coordinator Freeman Karen Reid and her army of helpers for organising and running the competition, and for planning an enjoyable evening to the last detail. The word is out that she's already working on next year's event.

'I was really happy with the way the evening went and I thoroughly enjoyed myself. The atmosphere was very jovial and everyone seemed to be having a happy and carefree time. The speeches were top shelf, truly impressive! All five speakers gave it their best and it was a privilege to be present and witness it. My special thanks go to Freeman Adrian Grant who has been especially encouraging and generously given his time to liaise with me on a number of occasions. I am also grateful to Freeman Sue Hart for invaluable guidance on every stage of this event. I'd have been lost without her advice.' *Freeman Karen Reid*

Thank you to the all-male adjudicating panel (Freeman Ruurd Speelman, Wayne Passmore, Freeman Terry O'Meara, Freeman Alan Ham and Freeman Ken Holzman) for accomplishing a difficult task in deciding the winners; hawk-eyed timekeeper Damien Roberts, and Rebecca Whitney for running a very successful raffle. Thanks also to Wilf Hendricks who took the photos and Nic Hatherly who caught all the action on video. The video will be edited and segments of it used to promote Rostrum on our website. Speeches will be used for training purposes. A DVD of the Finalists' speeches will be sent to each of the 2013 Finalists. (Karen, you have a job ahead of you to top this next year—Ed)

*More winning performances, from top right, Joanna Whitney (Club 11) Runner-up Speaker of the Year; Fmn Adrian Grant (Club 42) MC; Fmn Karen Reid (Cambridge Speaking Club) Coordinator of AGSoY; Fmn Ruurd Speelman (Cambridge Speaking Club) Chairman of Adjudicators and Jo Turbett (Club 2230) accepting the Club of Excellence trophy from Rostrum WA President Fmn Tony Lightman.*



