



ROSTRUM

INFORMER

May 2015

Newsletter of Rostrum Western Australia

www.rostrum.com.au/wa

Cambridge Speaking Club's Improv Night has everyone performing...extempore

In Rostrum we're advised to research the topic well when preparing a speech or debate. If you look up the word '**improvise**' you'll come up with something like: compose or perform, provide or construct extempore [from the Latin *improvisus* 'unforeseen']. Likewise, '**extempore**' will yield: without preparation, on the spur of the moment.

Ugh, impromptus! But the flyer advertising Club 34's Improv Night on 10 April said 'Sit back and be amazed or join in the fun!' As one of the 40 or 50 members and guests in the audience, I was there to be amazed.

What I'd not foreseen was Freeman David Price's mastery for eliciting audience participation. Within minutes, everyone was 'on stage' as part of a huge human machine: chugging, hissing, whooshing, bobbing, writhing, swaying, kicking...you get the picture. Result: ice broken, shyness banished, inhibitions overcome, let the fun begin.

Fast and furious action followed, with activities assigned as names were drawn from David's infamous fluffy pink top-hat. Who am I? What am I? Mime a one-person wrestling match. Round Robin with a twist. Report live from the scene of the action. Report live from the scene of the action *before* the action happens. Charades...of a sort (how *do* you mime an adjective?). Wrangle with a snail (yes). Interview a prospective date. On and on it went and members of the audience performed without missing a beat.

There were laughs aplenty (and tears of laughter), and yes, all joined in the fun and all were amazed at what they were capable of. Thank you to David and Cambridge Speaking Club for the opportunity to unleash, exercise, or perhaps just re-awaken, our creativity, and to the audience for some great Friday night live entertainment.

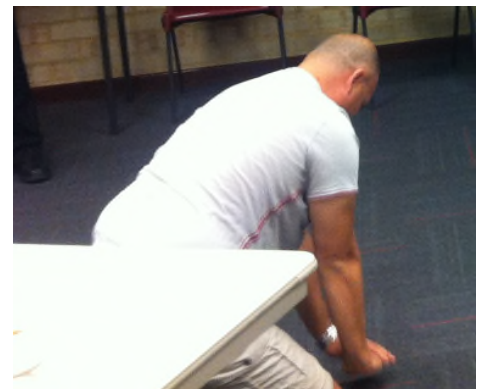
Rose Fogliani, Editor



A snail is wrangled ...



...to the floor



...and needs CPR (oops).

Fresh hands, fresh ideas



Just a couple of months into my presidency and so much has happened with even more happening right now and much, much more to come. Why not become part of Rostrum's team setting new directions for Rostrum? We're all in the same boat and we're all contributing, from being on the executive or organising an inter club event to presenting speeches and attending regular meetings. Together we are the fellowship of Rostrum.

So far this year we've had two Dais Executive meetings and one Dais Representatives meeting, and countless club meetings all over Western Australia. I've been out to Clubs 1/2, 4/8, and 39. I've been lucky enough to also visit one Victorian club. But I'm hatching a plan to visit every club, for this year I hope to visit all West Aussie clubs and in the coming years all clubs across Australia.

I have the pleasure of introducing this year's two new additions and a favourite returning to the Dais Executive. Elliot Chipper (42) as Secretary, Sarah Bellows (15) as Social Media Coordinator and Fmn Alan Ham (15) as Chairman of Freemans Council. These additions help fill the Board with some fresh blood, and fresh ideas.

The 2015 Dais Executive includes our two new members along with some friendly faces returning. In no particular order, we have Rose Fogliani (15) as Editor of the Informer, Juliet Park (34) as Rostrum Voice of Youth Coordinator, Jay Antunovich (11) as Web Coordinator, Derek Sparkes (33) as Treasurer, Denise Bradley (42) as Director of Marketing & Membership, and Fmn Ruurd Speelman (34) as Director of Training. This is a strong

team I'm standing shoulder to shoulder with, a team that's not full yet and is always looking for fresh blood to step up, stand out, and contribute.

What I need from you is a Vice President. No, not someone to preside over vices or a vice, but someone who will be ready in a few years' time to take up the role of President. While you may think that being President is too much, it's not. What it is, though, is a fantastic opportunity for you to learn how to be a business leader or manager. That's why I took on the role, because one day I plan to be a manager or CEO and what better way to prepare than to learn in a learning environment. I understand if you have very little spare time, with various commitments but you can still step up to learn a thing or two as a committee member assisting our executives. We have a training committee under Ruurd with members who are doing exactly that. So be brave and get in touch.

Now, onto my goals, ideas, and vision for my term as president.

First, the new website will be completed and online by 30 June 2015. An email with a link to it will be circulated once it's online. You can check it out and forward it to people who you think might benefit from Rostrum. This site must not remain static. We need to post new content regularly to keep climbing to the top of search engine results. This means you. Each and every one of you is able to contribute; from finding interesting videos online to link and share, to contributing speaking tips, or posting photos of club events, even contributing to a blog. The list is endless, and Rostrum needs every helping hand it can get to ensure we continue to post content.

From launching the new site, I want to get with the times and have online membership payment and renewals. This is planned to be ready for the second half of 2015, though logistically this may not happen until the beginning of 2016. There are some intricacies with clubs having different fees for members and meetings, although this can be worked through, with input from clubs.

Last year Fmn Karen Reid made a suggestion as Authur Garvey Speaker of the Year Coordinator that a club could take on organising the event. A motion to this effect was passed at the last Dais Representatives meeting in 2014. I'm pleased to inform everyone that Club 2230 has taken up the opportunity for 2015. They've formed a committee and I'm told that plans are underway.

Following on from that I want to see more input from whole clubs in organising and running interclub events. Club 34 have led the charge with their Improv Night which had me and many other people thinking on our feet and laughing with each other. Well done to Fmn David Price and Club 34 for a fantastic evening.

Club 15 organised last year's Comedy Night, which I'm looking forward to again this year. It'll be an entertaining night with a meal and a show all for \$30, you can't walk away from that.

There are clubs out there that have been pushing for more events, such as Convention. I want to see this event return to Rostrum's calendar in 2016. I need a club to step up to the plate and start the ground work now. At this stage I have my eye set on Clubs 11, 50, and 64, each of which has the capabilities to organise Convention. I need a volunteer; maybe you could work together, for many hands make light work.

Over 2015 I'm going to make my way around to clubs, look at what Rostrum is doing now and what we can be doing in the future. In 2016 I'm going to prepare a strategic plan to outline where Rostrum is going over the next five years. All successful organisations work to a strategic and business plan, so to make Rostrum successful this is a key goal. I'll need help and input from everyone.

On a final note, I want each and every member to contact me. Be it with your ideas, goals, or even just to say hello. I want to get to know everyone. With strong fellowship we can achieve greatness.

Luke Matthews, President, Rostrum WA

Exciting developments in the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year competition

This year our premier speaking event is being run by a committee of people from Club 2230, a novelty in itself.* More importantly, we are making some changes to the main competition, and are introducing a new parallel competition in impromptu speaking.

The Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year competition used to attract a very large number of entries, which has not been the case in recent years. We believe this is partly because new (and time-poor) speakers are daunted by the idea of a 10 minute speech.

We are therefore introducing a graduated system this year, where prepared speeches are of **six** minutes duration in the heats, and **eight** minutes in the semi-finals. Contestants can, as usual, use the same speech topic for both heats and semis. If they are successful in the heats, they then develop the speech further for the semis. Speeches in the final – on a new topic – will still be of **10** minutes duration.

This approach follows Rostrum's developmental learning philosophy, by helping speakers to tackle a speaking competition in incremental stages. As part of the learning and training agenda, we would hope that adjudicators would be willing to spend a few minutes with successful contestants after the heats, suggesting how best to take their speech to the next level.

The change will make for livelier heats and semi-finals for audience and adjudicators, while still providing a quality and thought-provoking final. Heats and semis will still be hosted by clubs (in about August-September), with semis in October, and the final at Lake Karrinyup Country Club on Saturday 28 November, and there will still be a cash prize for the winner and runner-up. We hope this new system will encourage many more of you to take on the challenge of entering the

competition this year. Perhaps clubs could urge their club competition winners to enter.

Our other innovation is an impromptu speaking competition to be run alongside the main competition. It will echo the impromptu speaking competitions which were the main feature of Rostrum conventions for so many years. Not all details for this competition have been finalised, but we envisage that speeches will be for three minutes, with possibly six minutes preparation. There will be cash prizes for the winner and runner-up, and competitors in the prepared speech competition are welcome to enter the impromptu section. Hopefully, experienced speakers who are too busy to prepare a 10-minute speech will take this opportunity to display their skills.

Rather than conducting heats and semis, we will ask clubs to submit names of competitors. If, as we hope, there are many keen competitors, we will then ask clubs to run their own qualifying competitions to determine who will be in the final on 28 November. Our aim would be to have at least one competitor from every club in the final. The impromptu competition will occur in the first half of the evening, the prepared speeches competition in the second half.

Let's all get behind these ideas and rejuvenate the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year competition in 2015. As always, entering the competition greatly improves a speaker's skills for all time. New speakers, challenge yourselves! Experienced speakers, show the rest of us how it is done! Please support us, and Rostrum, by making this the year YOU enter.

* Please note that if any speakers from Club 2230 enter the competition they will not be involved in any of the arrangements regarding speech topics and adjudication.

Fmn Sue Hart, Club 2230, AGSOY Organising Committee

What's on in ...

MAY

- 12 Comedy Night at Club 15**
6 pm sharp
Perth Hockey Stadium
Curtin University, Bentley

JUNE

- 4 Dais Board meeting**
6.15 pm
Tom Dadour Centre
363 Bagot Rd, Subiaco
- 27 Rostrum Voice of Youth State Final**
12.30pm start
The Boulevard Centre
1 The Boulevard, Floreat

Information and course registration:

Rostrum Information Centre
PO Box 5547
Canning Vale South
WA 6155
Phone 08 9463 6433
Fax 08 9455 1215
Email ric@rostrumwa.com.au

Proposed Informer dates for 2015

Deadline	Publish
15 May	June
15 July	August
15 September	October
15 November	December

Contributions welcome to
informer@rostrumwa.com.au

Rose Fogliani (Editor)

SUSO

The **Speak Up Speak Out** course is designed to give new members a quick start, covering topics such as finding something to say, basic speech structure and dealing with nerves. It's usually run on the second Tuesday of alternate months from 6.30 to 9.30pm. Keep in touch with the RIC for information about the next course.

Freeman Michael Connelly

Members will be aware of the recent passing of Freeman Michael Connelly who was a long-time member of Midland Rostrum Clubs 39 and 48.

A tribute article will appear in the next issue of the *Informer*.



Rostrum Club 15 is excited to invite you to...

Make Us Laugh

Make Us Laugh is back – bigger and better!

Budding stand-up comedians, why not take your Rostrum speaking skills to the next level and challenge yourself with a comedy routine?

\$250 prize money for the winner

\$100 for the runner up

Same rules as last year, limited places.

Contact Damien at damienroberts@kfpf.com.au for more info and to sign on.

Audience members will enjoy a line-up of classic stand-up as well as

The Great Debate

See Clubs 2230 and 11 face off debating the hot topic

“.....MEN..... .. LYCRA... ..!”

All will be revealed on the night!

Be there to hear the outrageous argy bargy!

Dinner and laughs are included in the ticket price – so come on out for something new, different and entertaining.

Bar facilities at the venue. Raffle prizes will also be on offer.

Date: **Tuesday 12 May**
Time: **6pm sharp**
Venue: **Perth Hockey Stadium
Curtin University Campus
Hayman Rd, Bentley**
Cost: **\$30**



Payment required upon booking. Payment details: Rostrum Club No 15, BSB: 086479, Account No: 508291291. Please include your name and club as your payment details subject.

LAST CHANCE TO SECURE YOUR PLACE. RSVP to Wilf at wilfhendriks@gmail.com NOW.