



ROSTRUM

INFORMER

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Newsletter of Rostrum Western Australia

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AGSOY FINAL AND ANNUAL DINNER

Nadia wins Speaker of the Year 2016

Rostrum members and guests who attended the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year final and Rostrum Annual Dinner on 19 November were rewarded with six fine speeches delivered with enthusiasm and passion. Nadia Truong (Club 2230), Jeanette Palumbo (11), Riley Burkett (19), Jacqui Holden (19), Katelyn Lane (19) and Ellita De Nardi (15) informed and entertained with their insight and skill.

The trophy and title of Speaker of the Year were won by Nadia Truong who re-joined Rostrum in May after a break of 10 years. Her speech *Believe* engaged adjudicators and audience alike, beginning with a quip about her father's speech at her wedding in which, instead of praising his daughter, he praised and thanked the Australian Government for welcoming his family as refugees 40 years ago. It was her father's belief in life that made him get into a boat headed for Australia, which he believed to be a land of opportunity. Nadia's message was that if you believe, you'll find the determination to turn opportunities into possibilities.

Ellita De Nardi was the Runner-up with her speech *Can we afford it?* She spoke about giving the gift of forgiveness and related the story of Maria Goretti and her mother who both forgave the man who fatally attacked the younger woman, to demonstrate that forgiveness releases both the person being forgiven and the one who forgives. Ellita also spoke of the role of forgiveness in her own life, maintaining that forgiveness is a legacy we can afford.

Jeanette Palumbo followed her success in the South of the River Speaking Competition earlier this year with another informative and thought-provoking speech. In *Believe* she spoke about the power of the mind, recounting the tragic story of the mountaineer Ben Hall and his will to survive on Mt Everest.

Club 19 had six relatively new members in this year's AGSOY competition, with three reaching the final. Riley Burkett spoke about his recently acquired passion for marathon running, explaining why *It's not what you think*. The expression 'passion and pain' suddenly became very meaningful. Jacqui Holden's humorous speech *Living in the past* had the audience laughing out loud and shifting uncomfortably in their seats as she described the downside of wearing skinny jeans beyond the age of 16. Katelyn Lane put the spotlight on Millennials in her speech *It's not what you think*. With a sprinkling of humour, she explained how her generation is resourceful, efficient and caring.

Congratulations and thank you to Nadia and Ellita and all the finalists – without you there wouldn't be a competition.

At left: Nadia Truong (top) and Ellita De Nardi (bottom).

AGSOY Final and Annual Dinner

More than 100 people attended the AGSOY Final and Annual Dinner at the Lake Karrinyup Country Club last month. The MC for the evening was Jason Lim from Club 19 who welcomed the finalists and audience and ensured the program ran smoothly from start to finish.

Freeman Colin Peacock, also a Club 19 member, proposed the toast to Rostrum. He referred to Rostrum as a 'confidence factory' which provides training and experience for members. After 53 years as a member, his answer to the often-asked question, 'But why so long?' is that for him Rostrum is also a 'fun factory' offering camaraderie and fellowship, as well as the opportunity to help the younger, less experienced members to achieve their goals.

Rostrum WA President Freeman Sue Hart highlighted Rostrum's achievements this year and expressed her appreciation for everyone's efforts in overcoming a number of issues confronting the organisation.

Much anticipated was the announcement of the winner of the R Alan Crook Award for Club of Excellence for 2016. For the first time in the club's history, the award was won by Club 19. Sue Hart made the presentation to Club President Riley Burkett, noting that the club had inducted many new members and introduced new ideas which contributed to the club's vitality. She also thanked the club for taking on the responsibility of organising the AGSOY competition and Annual Dinner, and particularly Patricia Watts, the AGSOY Coordinator, who attended all the heats and semis, and presented regular updates at the Executive meetings in the lead-up. Dais is now looking for another club to organise the competition and event in 2017.

Thanks are due also to the adjudicators Joanne Turbett (2230), Fmn Susan L'Herpinierie (50), Fmn Ruurd Speelman (34), Joanna Whitney (11) and Fmn Wayne Passmore (15) for the difficult job of determining a winner. Chairman of Adjudicators Joanne Turbett commented on the high standard of the speeches in the competition this year.

Wilf Hendriks (15) once again took all the photos on the evening – there are many more on the back page of this issue.

Rose Fogliani



Jeanette Palumbo, Club 11



Top-to-bottom: Katelyn Lane, Jacqui Holden and Riley Burkett from Club 19



Winners of the R Alan Crook Award for Club of Excellence for 2016, Club 19

Photos by Wilf Hendriks (Club 15)



From the President

What a great night on Saturday 19 November at our annual dinner where we enjoyed the final of the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year competition. Congratulations to all the contestants and especially to the winner, Nadia Truong from Club 2230, and runner up Ellita De Nardi from Club 15.

Congratulations also to Club 19 who won the R Alan Crook Award for best club in the zone. The club has been very vibrant and active this year and the young committee do great work. The club took on the role of running the AGSOY this year, a task which was almost wholly carried out by Patricia Watts. She is new to Rostrum this year and did a fantastic job. Thanks also to Jason Lim from Club 19 who was Master of Ceremonies for the night. He showed the value of his Rostrum training, being both professional and light-hearted and really keeping things running smoothly. There were a couple of glitches outside the control of Patricia or Jason or myself, mainly the problem of people having difficulty entering the grounds of Lake Karrinyup after the start time. This should be resolved for next year. We need a club to run the event for next year – not only would you be helping Rostrum but it will look good in your submission for best club!

I thank all the executive committee for their hard work this year, including Jo Turbett who has resigned as Director of Training after many long hours of work for Rostrum. Office bearers for next year were elected at the last Dais meeting for 2016 on Friday 25 November. We also need a member from each club to take on the role of Meetup contact. This is not an onerous task and Elliott Chipper, the outgoing Director of Marketing, will give you plenty of help to get started. Please consider this as your contribution back to Rostrum – it is a valuable platform for spreading the word of Rostrum and attracting visitors.

2017 promises to be an exciting year as the Sidney Wicks speaking competition is being held. This is a national competition held every six to eight years. We will be organising a state competition with the final held at an event most probably in early April; the winner gets a free trip to Brisbane to compete in the national final on 27 July. Anyone can enter so think about it seriously.

Thank you all for your support this year. Have a happy Christmas and an enjoyable summer.

Freeman Sue Hart, President, Rostrum WA

From the Editor

'We act as though comfort and luxury were the chief requirements of life, when all that we need to make us really happy is something to be enthusiastic about.'

Charles Kingsley (1819-1875)

University professor, social reformer, historian and novelist

Thank you to everyone who contributed in any way to the *Informer* this year: all the snippets of information, articles, photos, suggestions and feedback were much appreciated and helped to make the newsletter that much better. I'm looking forward to more of the same in 2017.

I'm extending an invitation to interested members to become involved in the *Informer* next year: as Guest Editors, to report on Rostrum events, or maybe to write an article on an aspect of public speaking that interests them. As with anything in Rostrum, we learn by doing and the organisation offers the opportunity to try new things. Consider this invitation to be that opportunity. The newsletter will be improved by having contributions from a variety of members with new and different ideas. If you are interested, please drop me a line at informer@rostrumwa.com.au. You could even make it a New Year's resolution (along with entering AGSOY 2017)!

In the meantime, best wishes for a safe and happy Christmas. See you next year.

Rose Fogliani, Editor



Christmas is coming...Ho ho ho

Rostrum WA Executive 2017

President Freeman Sue Hart (2230)

Vice President Freeman Susan L'Herpiniere (50)

Secretary Freeman Ken Holzman (34)

Treasurer Freeman Terry Walker (2230)

Director of Training Freeman Ruurd Speelman (34)

Director of Marketing Dom Lake (19)

Coordinator of RVOY Freeman Juliet Park (34)

Coordinator of AGSOY VACANT

Editor of the Informer Rose Fogliani (15)

Web Coordinator Dom Lake (19)

Chairman of Freeman's Council Freeman Bill Smith (11)

To be ratified at a meeting of Freeman's Council

Introducing Club 19

Club 19 prides itself on hosting a large and diverse array of members. The membership includes people from Australia, United Kingdom, Germany, India, Canada, Zimbabwe, Italy, Iran and Korea. We have had multiple members join to improve their English and teach us a few foreign phrases along the way. Gender and age diversity is also a feature of the club with approximately equal numbers of males and females and an age range from early 20s to early 70s.

We have an established relationship with Capricorn Society which ensures a steady stream of young graduates eager to improve their presentation skills and impress in the professional environment. We also have a number of budding entrepreneurs looking to sharpen their sales skills and work on effectively communicating their ideas. Longtime members act as mentors and contribute to the overall vitality of the club providing a wealth of experience to younger speakers. Our members look to implement the skills gained at Rostrum in a wide variety of forums including sporting clubs, conferences, formal presentations, stand-up comedy, community radio and MCing events.

Riley Burkett, President, Club 19



Summary of Club 19's Club of Excellence Submission

Club 19 has worked to attract and retain people who will consistently contribute and buy into the values advocated by the wider Rostrum community and specifically those of Club 19: participation, inclusiveness, inclusiveness, respect and integrity.

Our goal has been to attract and retain members who will actively demonstrate these principles thereby contributing to the overall vitality of Club 19. We have chosen to focus not only on increasing the number of members but also retention, increasing the involvement of valued and contributing members. This has been achieved through the initiatives discussed below.

Program Initiatives

A strong program ensures a valued organisation which delivers upon its promise to build confidence for any situation. Club 19 acknowledges the importance of

providing a sound and reliable product for its members. We believe our targeted approach focused on achieving, supplementing, developing and contributing to the existing Rostrum curriculum has improved the quality and delivery of a well-established program.

Achieving – Six members completed their PDP with six more members currently progressing through the program. Three members are currently progressing through their IDP and are all close to completion. The club has also introduced/broadened the scope of its in-house speaking awards with the committee identifying and recording outstanding and memorable speeches in areas such as demonstration speeches, 'I feel strongly about', reading out aloud etc.

Supplementing – Club 19 is committed to providing a diverse and engaging program to enhance and build upon the current development plans. We have supplemented existing programs through consistently scheduling workshops, tutorials and unique agendas, including:

- Malcom Dix – A matter of laugh and death
- Brent Garvey – Paralympian and professional speaker
- Scott Guerini – Marathon walk for telethon
- Sian Williams – Kidzucate founder
- Mock wedding agenda
- Balloon debate
- Humour agenda – An opportunity to implement the lessons learnt from the Malcom Dix workshop
- Speakers presenting on what they learnt whilst completing their Personal Development Plan
- The club has also added three new items to its speaking program. These are 'What am I?' speeches on famous orators illustrated by an example of a famous speech they made and an impromptu 'book swap' exercise.

Developing – We have recently introduced a leadership development program. Positions held in the committee offer great exposure for future leaders and aspiring board members. There currently exists a gap for those who wish to move into administration and leadership roles within the club. We have developed a structured program around this idea to strengthen not only the club but the wider organisation. We currently have two members undertaking the program ensuring an established succession plan within committee roles.

Contributing – Club 19 is also interested in encouraging some relatively new initiatives implemented by Rostrum WA. We have actively encouraged eligible members to undertake the newly established CDP (Coaches Development Program) with the aspiration to produce one new coach each semester. Jason Lim has taken up the challenge this semester and we look forward to providing a steady stream of new coaches to benefit Club 19 and Rostrum WA.

Marketing Initiatives

Our broad marketing strategy has included:

- Improving our Meetup.com group page and increasing traffic to our events. We have increased our meet up

group members by 143 over the judging period and signed up nine new members through the page.

- Maintaining and regularly updating our Facebook page
- Promoting ourselves through having social functions
- Targeting surrounding businesses
- Promoting workshops to the wider community

Culture Initiatives

Club 19 has managed to foster a supportive and friendly environment for members to develop and grow. As a club we want to encourage members to socialise and get to know each other outside of Rostrum, fostering a community of like-minded individuals who are able lean on each other for support, share their experiences and feel part of a supported network of learning. A strong culture works to increase participation and involvement not only at the club level but within the wider Rostrum community.

Club 19 wishes to be the pillar of what a social thriving club can be, driving change through a community based focus. We believe this is achievable as we are continuing to build and establish this culture with the guidance of a youthful energetic committee. Some of our initiatives to drive this change are outlined below:

- We have hosted multiple Sundowners this year – most notably a fun filled night at Cambridge Bowling Club where members were able to have a few drinks and test their skills on the greens. We had 20 members attend and participate.
- We hosted a number of unique meetings and workshops as previously outlined which were highly engaging and enjoyable for our members.
- We were able to support fellow members in their external application of skills learnt at Rostrum. For example supporting a member at a recent pub gig, watching stand-up routines and getting great numbers to support our participants in the 2016 AGSOY heats and semi-finals.
- We have established a fresh committee that is guided by our committee manual and has a shared vision of continuing to build this culture of inclusiveness, support and participation.

New Members

We welcome prospective members through introductions at the start of the meetings. We follow them up with emails with details on the club, how to join and offer one-on-one contact should they have any questions. We have recently developed a flowchart to streamline the process of welcoming prospective members.

We endeavour to put new members through their Personal Development Plan at a pace that suits the individual, i.e. faster for more confident members who attend regularly and more slowly for more cautious members who attend less often. We maintain open communication with new members as to how often they would like to speak and if they have any specific areas of interest. We also encourage new members to adopt a mentor from a list of experienced speakers collated and approved by the committee.

Contributed by Club 19

Program Directions

A RESOURCE FOR PROGRAM DIRECTORS

Program Directions are ideas for more imaginative speaking exercises to enable members to develop their communication skills whilst adding variety and interest to meetings.

Below are examples of speaking exercises from two recent meetings at Club 19.

Special interests workshop

Members speak on topics in which they have a particular interest, or knowledge. This is followed by a Question and Answer session in which speakers are invited back to the front to answer questions from members and visitors in the audience.

- Gender barriers to career progression in the agricultural industry
- The art of persuasion in small business
- Financial planning to social work: learnings from 5 years in mental health
- My trip to Canada
- Road to Rio



Themed Meeting – FOOD

- The weirdest food or meal I've ever eaten.
- My favourite recipe – the task is to describe some of the more difficult steps in the recipe, or explain why it is your favourite.
- These two foods taste great together – persuade the audience that two foods that would not normally taste good together should in fact be eaten together!

If your club has held a particularly successful meeting with an interesting agenda that other clubs might be interested in, please send it to me at informer@rostrumwa.com.au and I will include it in a future issue.

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Please send your contributions for the February 2017 *Informer* to: [informer@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:informer@rostrumwa.com.au)

Rose Fogliani (Editor)



