



ROSTRUM

INFORMER

July 2017

Newsletter of Rostrum Western Australia

www.rostrumwa.com.au

To be 2100 or not to be 2100

Canning Speakers Club celebrated its 2100th meeting last month with a 21st theme. Many former members attended, including Clare Loades and Foundation Member James Thompson. Guests included Rostrum WA President Fmn Sue Hart, Chairman of Freeman's Council Fmn Bill Smith and Fmn Rick Staker.

The evening started with Fmn Susan L'Herpiniere introducing Chairman Frank Butler and sharing an interesting fact about him. Members then introduced themselves with some witty fact about themselves. This put everyone at ease for what was about to come.

Reggie Albuquerque presented a Bright Spot, which was followed by a Call My Bluff exercise with the word 'Shickshinny'. Speakers Mike Kavanagh, Elise Rosenberg, Ho Jin Yoo, and Roy Sainsbury gave us four convincing definitions. Tina Morton hosted a media interview on the topic 'Turning 21 in the 21st Century', introducing the session as 'the program that gets to the heart of the matter'. Her special guest was Souk 'ToGetIt' Wong who covered many issues affecting us today.

John Gwilym gave us an exercise on English History. It was very witty, with letter substitution down to the last sentence of '*Und Efter Ze Fijz Yer Ve Vil Al Be Speking German Lik Zey Vunted In Ze Forst Plas!*' This was followed by Pamela Marcano's reading aloud exercise.

In Club Business, Clare Loades and James Thompson were thanked for their services to the club over the years, as were Susan L'Herpiniere, Tina Morton and Jim Laird for bringing the programme together.

After an intermission, we had a Hot Air Balloon Debate to decide who should get the only parachute on the deflating balloon. Tom Cruise was represented by Chris Lynch, Dame Edna by Trevor Denholm, President Trump by Murray Rosenberg, Tina Turner by Wendy Wardell and Queen Elizabeth by Mike Hilton. The presentations were humorous and convincing.

Jim Laird showed us his guitar talents by singing a 'Birthday Ditty' he composed about club members and their interests.

During supper Clare and James cut the birthday cake which Tina had organised.

It was a fantastic evening! One of the observations was how people really extended themselves in the role-playing more than they would at a normal club meeting.

Trevor Denholm, Secretary, Canning Speakers Club





From the President

Following the success of the Sidney Wicks national speaking competition (good luck to Susan L'Herpinere in the final) we turn our attention to the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year competition. This is our premier speaking event and the backbone of our training programme. It puts into practice everything you have

learned in your regular meetings and more.

Preparing a longer speech and presenting it to a bigger audience than your own club (but still in a friendly club setting) during the heats and semi-finals is an invigorating experience. Sure it can be disappointing not to go on to become the eventual winner (I know, I've been there) but everyone who enters the competition emerges as a better speaker at the other end.

We are doing all we can to ensure that this year's competition is the best ever. Fmn Ruurd Speelman, Director of Training, is organising an adjudication workshop which will benefit everyone – competitors and adjudicators. There were a few hitches in the timing of speeches during the Sidney Wicks competition and that has been and will continue to be addressed. Timing matters – it is an important part of the planning and structure of your speech, and only fair that everyone adheres to the same rules. After all, if we didn't have to worry about timing it would be an easier and more relaxed exercise to get up and compete.

It is also important to present a meaningful speech that engages properly with the topic. I attended the final of the Voice of Youth competition and was struck by the depth of all the speeches. Yes, it is easy to be idealistic when you are young and easy to be cynical about speakers taking an earnest view of solving the world's problems. However, I really believe that mature Rostrum speakers could learn something from the polished young speakers in the VOY.

In recent years many speakers in the AGSOY competition have fallen back on moving personal stories without giving the audience something to think about. It is of course a fine line between appealing to the intellect and the emotions – a detached, theoretical speech won't win, but a speech that is all emotion with no message and structure to back it up shouldn't win either.

So set yourself a challenge – use your experience of life and your general knowledge and some research to come up with a winning formula that covers all aspects. Make us think and make us laugh or cry (preferably both) and leave us something to ponder. You might not just win, but change someone's life! Good luck.

Freeman Sue Hart, President, Rostrum WA
suehart@iinet.net.au

RVOY WA STATE FINAL

The 4Cs of competition speaking



Mosaia McDonald (Junior winner) and Esther Nixon (Senior winner)

Courage, confidence, a 'can-do' attitude, and a commitment to follow through with the effort required to research and develop a speech, practise and edit it (and practise and edit it again many times) were very evident at the Rostrum Voice of Youth State Final last month. The audience and adjudicators at the final were treated to 12 prepared speeches which were well thought out and passionately delivered. The high quality of the speeches, commented on by Rostrum WA President Fmn Sue Hart and Chairman of Adjudicators Fmn Ruurd Speelman, was a credit to the speakers, and to their teachers and mentors.

Esther Nixon from Ursula Frayne Catholic College won the Senior section, with Max Richardson from Hale School the runner-up. The Junior section was won by Mosaia McDonald from Corpus Christi College. Henry Kent from Wesley College was the Junior runner-up. Esther and Mosaia will represent WA in the National Final in Brisbane at the end of July. We wish them every success.

Rose Fogliani, Editor

Competition Speaking and Adjudication Workshop

Director of Training Freeman Ruurd Speelman will hold a workshop for members interested in competition speaking and how competition speeches are adjudicated.

Entrants and prospective entrants in this year's AGSOY are strongly encouraged to attend, as are all accredited (and aspiring) Critics.

Entrants: get a 'heads up' on what the adjudicators will be looking for in your speech;

Critics: brush up on timing rules and what's required of adjudicators at heats, semis and the final.

When: Thursday 20 July 2017
Time: 6pm to 7pm
Where: Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley
RSVP: Monday 17 July 2017 to:
ric@rostrumwa.com.au

AGSOY COMPETITION

Words of wisdom from two who've been on the journey...



Nadia Truong, Speaker of the Year 2016

It may come as a surprise but I was a reluctant entrant and people who know me well will agree that I don't have a competitive bone in my body. The Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year was my very first but hopefully not my last speaking competition. It really forced me out of my comfort zone and I learned so much going through each of the heats and of course during the finals.

I thoroughly enjoyed listening to the different speakers as they shared their unique perspectives, experiences and presenting styles. It does not matter how long you have been a member; I was a member for three months and was prone to uncontrollable sweats, shakes and mental blackouts.

Entering this competition fast tracked my skills, exposed me to a variety of audiences, familiar and unfamiliar, and allowed me to actively learn from others. No amount of home or club practice can prepare you for what you will learn from competition speaking with a live, interactive audience and I think just by entering, you will have fulfilled your purpose for becoming a Rostrum member, which is to improve your public speaking skills.

Don't think about the possible outcome; in my mind, we are all winners for our efforts to improve ourselves and for committing to a journey that often leaves us vulnerable. It is up to you to decide whether you want this journey to be a memorable one.

So, what are you waiting for?

Ellita De Nardi, Runner Up 2016

A group of Year One students were asked their thoughts on why people entered competitions. Their responses were fairly typical of that age group: to win prizes, money, medals or trophies and to become famous and be on TV. I doubt anyone has ever entered a Rostrum speaking competition for those reasons. So, what then, motivated me to enter the Arthur Garvey



Speaker of the Year competition in 2010 and in 2016? I entered the competition mainly to lift myself out of a rut and to challenge myself. Along the way, I learnt so much about public speaking as well as about myself.

The AGSOY contest is a win-win contest. Even if you don't win, you are a winner. Just by being in the competition forced me to do my best and to keep on improving. It forced me to continually review and analyse my speeches. I had the benefit of loads of quality feedback from club members, tutors and adjudicators. More importantly, I had the opportunity to act on that feedback and to make changes on aspects of my speech that weren't working well. Every time I had to step up and present a speech it was very nerve-racking, but with each speech I felt that my presentation was improving and that I was gaining confidence.

For me, the most important decision in the whole AGSOY experience is the choice of topic. I usually make a list of topics or themes or stories that are dear to me and that I am passionate about. I love to talk about people whose life stories might not be well known by the general public, such as C.Y. O'Connor, St Maximillian Kolbe and Maria Goretti. I love developing speeches on universal themes such as 'forgiveness' or 'loyalty' or 'gratitude'. I then try to link one of these themes to the list of topics that is provided. From there, I flesh out the main content and message that I want to share. Bearing in mind that the aim is to make the audience both laugh and cry, I try to balance serious parts of my speech with some light-hearted parts, and spice up the content with humour, word pictures and quotes. I'm always very mindful of the importance of editing and refining the speech because, for a competition speech especially, every phrase and every word counts. Because the timing of the speech is critical, deciding what to leave out can be a tough decision. However difficult it seems to 'cut and cut again', I can honestly say that with each editing episode, I feel more and more satisfied that I'm making critical improvements and can see the speech finally coming together.

I'm so glad I entered the AGSOY competition. It **excited** me, it **energised** me and it **educated** me. I'm grateful to the quality competitors who pushed me to challenge myself. I'm grateful for the quality feedback I received that helped me to develop and refine my public speaking skills during this amazing learning journey.

AGSOY COMPETITION Regulations

All entrants should be aware of the regulations for the competition, as detailed in the **Rostrum WA Inc. Regulations (Amended 2016)**.

2.3 Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year Competition

1. The competition is open to any member of Rostrum except the Chairman of Training Council, the Dais President and the Competition Coordinator.

2. The Competition Coordinator will allocate speakers to elimination heats and the Chairman of Training Council will appoint three adjudicators (one will be nominated Chairman of Adjudicators) to judge each heat or preliminary final.

3. Should an adjudicator fail to be in attendance at the commencement of the meeting, the adjudicator(s) present will appoint a replacement.

4. Not less than two speakers from each heat at the first selection stage will be placed in the next tier of the competition. The number of speakers to advance to the next tier of the competition shall be recommended by the Competition Coordinator and ratified by the Dais Executive depending on the number of contestants who enter the competition.

5. Members from outside the metropolitan area may compete at the first selection stage using video presentations. Winners must compete in person at the final.

6. Where sufficient cause is shown, the Chairman of Training Council, in consultation with the Dais President and Vice President(s), may place any entrant directly into a preliminary final irrespective of that speaker having first participated in the primary selection round of the competition.

7. The order of speaking shall be decided by ballot prior to commencement of the event.

8. A list of topics for all preliminary selection heats and finals shall be provided, from which contestants shall choose one. Contestants may choose a different topic from the list, for subsequent appearances in later tiers of the competition prior to the final, but this is not obligatory. A different list of topics will apply to the final.

9. Topics for all levels of the competition shall be determined by the Chairman of Training Council together with the Competition Coordinator.

10. Speeches during each round of the competition will be for a length recommended by Training Council Executive and ratified by the Dais Executive.

11. There shall be a minimum of 5 adjudicators at the final selected jointly by the Chairman of Training Council and the Dais President and each adjudicator shall have been qualified as an adjudicator.

12. Except in exceptional circumstances no speaker who is more than 1 minute outside the time limit can be judged a winner.

Coming up in ...

JULY

- 20 **Adjudication Workshop**
6 pm to 7 pm
Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley
- 20 **Dais Exec Meeting**
7 pm (following the workshop)
Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley
- 21 **Closing date for entries in the 2017 AGSOY Competition**
Details on the next page

AUGUST

- 11 **Copy deadline for August *Informer***
- 17 **Dais Exec Meeting**
6.30 pm
Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley
- 21-31 **AGSOY Competition Heats**
Dates and venues tbc

Information and course registration:

Rostrum Information Centre (RIC)
PO Box 5547
Canning Vale South, WA 6155
Phone 08 9463 6433
Fax 08 9455 1215
Email ric@rostrumwa.com.au
Web www.rostrumwa.com.au
Facebook www.facebook.com/rostrumwa

Thank you for your contributions to this issue. Please send me your notices, stories, photos and articles for the August issue by Friday 11 August, sooner if possible.

Rose Fogliani (Editor)
informer@rostrumwa.com.au

Critics' Training Course

Unfortunately the Critics' Training Course scheduled for July had to be cancelled due to the low number of registrants. Another course will be held in October if there is enough interest.

If you have completed your PDP and are considering becoming a Critic, or just want some extra training to improve your speaking and presentation skills, please register your interest with Deb at the Rostrum Information Centre. The course is also useful for accredited Critics who want to refresh their skills.

Confirmation of dates and venue will follow only if there are enough registrations to run the course.



2017 ARTHUR GARVEY SPEAKER OF THE YEAR COMPETITION

COMPETITION ENTRIES CLOSE THIS WEEK!
DON'T MISS OUT – ENTER TODAY

First Prize of \$500 and Runner-up prize of \$250

Topics for HEATS and SEMI-FINALS

My first grey hair
Whistleblowing
A cold front
Forbidden fruit
Just a minute
Tough times

Speech timing is 8 minutes with a warning bell at 6 minutes

HEATS will be held 21 – 31 August

SEMI-FINALS will be held 26 – 29 September

Speech Topics for the Final will be announced after the Semis
Speech timing for Final is 10 minutes with a warning bell at 8 minutes
Speeches for the Final must be all new material
and not include parts of a speech used in the Heats or Semi-Finals

FINAL

Saturday 18 November
Lake Karrinyup Country Club

\$20 per entrant to cover administration costs and prize money

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS FRIDAY 21 JULY 2017



AGSOY 2017 COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Club Number:

Preferred day/time of day for heats:

Payment: \$20 per entrant to cover administration costs and prize money

Preferred Payment Method is via Direct Deposit to Rostrum WA's bank account:

Westpac Bank BSB: 036-080

Account Name: Rostrum Western Australia Inc.

Account Number: 612932

Please use your **Surname** and **Club number** as payment identifier

EMAIL your Entry Form and direct deposit receipt to 15rostrum@gmail.com

or

POST your Entry Form and cheque made payable to **Rostrum Western Australia Inc.**

to

Rose Fogliani

PO Box 440

COMO WA 6952

For more information please contact the AGSOY Coordinators at Club 15 via email:

15rostrum@gmail.com.

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES IS FRIDAY 21 JULY 2017