



ROSTRUM

INFORMER

December 2017

Newsletter of Rostrum Western Australia

www.rostrumwa.com.au



Speaker of the Year 2017, Rob Huth (Club 19)

Rob Huth is Speaker of the Year 2017

The combined Annual Dinner and final of the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year competition is often described as Rostrum WA's 'premier event' and 2017 was no exception. Just over 100 members and guests gathered on 18 November at the Karrinyup Country Club to catch up with one another over a meal, celebrate another Rostrum year and support the AGSOY finalists. MC Ryan Whiddett (Club 15) directed proceedings through a busy agenda.

The final of the AGSOY competition was, as always, the highlight of the evening with the five speakers entertaining the audience on topics they were clearly very passionate about. A sixth finalist, Frank Marshall (Club 34), unfortunately became ill the day before the final and was unable to participate.

Rob Huth from Club 19 won the title of Speaker of the Year, the Arthur Garvey trophy and \$500 for his speech *Over the Hill*, in which he asked why people over 60 are not valued in the workforce and most Australians have retired by age 65. He spoke about elder wisdom in indigenous communities, business, and literature to highlight that wisdom is not degraded by age.

Rachel Ashton from Southern Star Club 63 in Albany won the Runner-up trophy and \$250 for *Strange but True*. She explored the ideas of reincarnation and the butterfly effect, suggesting that everything happens for a reason.

Strange but True was also the topic chosen by Jean-Marc Papineau (Club 5). Using himself, Thomas Edison and James Dyson as examples, he explained that you often have to fail in order to succeed. In an entertaining speech titled *Sheer Stupidity*, Amanda Meloni (Club 5) revealed that 'stupidity' started with a boy, it was a 'stupid idea' to attempt to win him back after being dumped, and 'sheer stupidity' not to learn from her mistakes. Jacinth Watson (Club 15) spoke on *I've had Enough*, three little words that can prompt someone to change their life. She told three stories about life-changing events and stressed the importance of three other little words 'Are you OK?' in potentially saving a life.

Continued on next page



Runner-Up, Rachel Ashton (Club 63)



Lauren O'Neill from Club 19 accepts the R Alan Crook Award for Club of Excellence 2017 from Rostrum WA President Freeman Sue Hart

Speaker of the Year 2017... continued

Nadia Truong, 2016 AGSOY winner, gave the Rostrum Toast at the start of the evening. She encouraged members to take their Rostrum Promise seriously by not being silent when they ought to speak, unlike her silence when she was a teenager in school which earned herself and her whole class a detention.

Freeman Sue Hart presented her last President's Address at an AGSOY final, commenting on how encouraging it was to see almost all the clubs represented. She spoke about some of the year's highlights and invited everyone to attend the upcoming celebrations for the 70th Anniversary of Rostrum WA on 28 July 2018.

There haven't been many presentations at the Annual Dinner recently so it was nice to see some members recognised on the night. Sue presented Bronze Medallions to Ivan Miles (Club 11) and Patricia Watts (Club 19). Ivan was recognised for his efforts in promoting both his club and the organisation for more than 30 years. Patricia organised the AGSOY competition and Annual Dinner in 2016, the Sidney Wicks competition in 2017, and is currently planning the 70th Anniversary celebrations and ARC conference for 2018.

The presentations continued with Freeman Bill Smith, Chairman of Freeman's Council, announcing – to their complete surprise – the elevation of two new Freeman, Rob Gates (Club 19) and Rose Fogliani (Club 15).

Club 19 was awarded the year's R Alan Crook Award for the Club of Excellence for the second year in a row. The club has continued to grow and prosper, introducing many new members to the benefits of Rostrum and public speaking. Well done – Freeman, Bronze Medallion and the gong!

Congratulations to Rob and Rachel on their achievement, and to all the finalists for being part of the competition. A HUGE thankyou to the Adjudicators – Freeman Ruurd Speelman (Chairman), Freeman Ken Holzman, Freeman Wayne Passmore, Carmel Philippe and Joanna Whitney for their expertise. Thanks also to the Timekeepers, Mike Kapitola and Ben Riley, and to Wilf Hendriks for once again taking all the photos. Big thanks to Club 15 for organising the competition and the dinner, and to all the clubs who hosted heats and semi-finals.

Last but not least, my personal thanks to Clive Carrington from Club 11 who answered my plea for a humorous speech as a pre-dinner tonic. His presentation, reminiscent of Hamlet's 'To Be or Not to Be' soliloquy in which he cleverly demonstrated some of the pitfalls of presenting a speech, was well-received. You've got to know the rules to be able to break them (thanks to Rostrum).

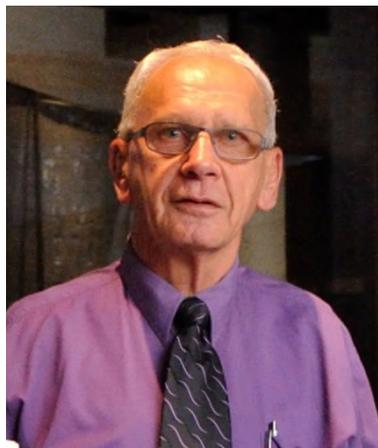
See you at AGSOY 2018.

Rose Fogliani, Club 15

At left, from top, AGSOY finalists Jacinth Watson (Club 15), Amanda Meloni (Club 5) and Jean-Marc Papineau (Club 5)



Bronze Medallion recipients, Ivan Miles (Club 11) and Patricia Watts (Club 19)



Freeman Rob Gates (Club 19)



Freeman Rose Fogliani (Club 15)



From the President

Well, what a great night at Lake Karrinyup Country Club on November 18! High quality speeches, plenty of awards, great company, a lovely meal, and above all else, a terrific atmosphere. It was hard to define but there was a feeling of goodwill and enthusiasm in the air that auger well for the future. Thank you to Rose

Fogliani and the team at Club 15 for organising and creating a terrific event.

Congratulations to all the winners: Rob Huth from Club 19 who won the Arthur Garvey speaking competition against very skilled opponents, and Rachel Ashton from Club 63 who was runner-up. Congratulations to Club 19 for winning the R Alan Crook Club of Excellence award.

We have two new Freeman in Rostrum – Freeman Rose Fogliani (Club 15) and Freeman Rob Gates (Club 19). Welcome to you both. And well done to Patricia Watts (Club 19) and Ivan Miles (Club 11) for your Bronze Medallions.

The final Dais meeting for the year was held the following Friday 24 November and there was a good turnout, which was also very pleasing. I was re-elected President, with Carmel Philippe from Club 64 as Vice-President. Freeman Ken Holzman from Club 34 remains as Secretary, and Freeman Ruurd Speelman, also from Club 34, is Director of Training. Freeman Rose Fogliani (15) is on-going Editor of the *Informer* and Freeman Juliet Park (34) is Coordinator of the Voice of Youth competition. Patricia Watts from Club 19 heads a committee organising next year's 70th anniversary celebrations and the Australian Rostrum Council (ARC) conference. Greg Swensen from Club 19 has agreed to be our new Webmaster, which is good news as the website is our main marketing tool.

We still need another Vice-President. Please consider taking on this role, to help Rostrum and for your own personal and professional development.

I have been visiting clubs in the past few weeks and it has been an interesting experience. Some clubs are travelling very well and inspire confidence in the future of Rostrum in WA. Some are progressing satisfactorily – members appreciate the learning and fun of the speaking exercise and enjoy the social interaction with their fellow club members – but need to keep on their toes to avoid stagnation.

A few clubs are struggling and are a cause for concern. Unfortunately, not only do they provide a limited experience for their current members but when visitors attend a club meeting with only a few people present they aren't likely to

return and, not to put too fine a point on it, receive a negative image of Rostrum. A likely potential member is lost to the whole organisation.

To address this, and membership numbers in general, the executive has begun planning a strategy to really revitalise Rostrum. The opening salvo will take place on Saturday 3 February, from 11 am to 1.30 pm, at Wembley Recreation Centre. This will be a brainstorming session, open to all members of Rostrum, where we will 'take the temperature' of the organisation as it is at present. Do come along and have your say.

Next year we also host the annual ARC conference and are planning for it to involve all members of Rostrum WA, not just ARC members (ie other zone presidents and the executive of the ARC). It takes place on the final weekend of July, culminating in a dinner at Lake Karrinyup on Saturday 28 July.

The main purpose of the dinner is to celebrate 70 years of Rostrum in Western Australia. It will be a fun night, looking back over our achievements and catching up with old friends, and also looking forward as we work on our new approach to growing the organisation. Regarding the 'old', mention the dinner to any former members you know, and lend us any particularly interesting photos or artefacts you possess. Regarding the new, make sure you renew your membership for the year, do your best to invite people along to Rostrum and attend the session on 3 February.

I hope everyone has a marvellous Christmas – or whatever festival you celebrate. Enjoy New Year and, hopefully, a break from work. I look forward to seeing you all next year.

Freeman Sue Hart, President, Rostrum WA

Rostrum WA Executive 2018

President	Freeman Sue Hart (2230)
Vice President	Carmel Philippe (64)
Secretary	Freeman Ken Holzman (34)
Treasurer	Charles Parker (2230)
Director of Training	Freeman Ruurd Speelman (34)
Director of Marketing	VACANT
Coordinator of RVOY	Freeman Juliet Park (34)
Coordinator of AGSOY	Club 15
Editor of the Informer	Freeman Rose Fogliani (15)
Web Coordinator	Greg Swensen (19)
Chairman of Freeman's Council	Freeman Bill Smith (11)



Class of 2017: critics, tutors and coaches in the making



L-to-R (standing) Ben Riley (34), Rachel Ashton (63), Karen Cooper (19), Pamela Marciano (50), Roy Sainsbury (50), Alex Cokic (19), Fmn Ruurd Speelman (34), Fmn Rob Gates (19), Lauren O'Neill (19), Fmn Don Duck (4&8); (seated) Priscilla Nguyen (33), Fmn David Price (34), Rosemary Robertson (visitor).

During the last week of November, when the majority of Rostrum clubs were powering down after a busy year at the podium, a handful of members were just gearing up for their Critics' Training Course. Karen Cooper, Alex Cokic and Lauren O'Neill (all from Club 19); Priscilla Nguyen (Club 33); Pamela Marciano and Roy Sainsbury (both from Club 50) and Rachel Ashton (Club 63) attended the course on 25 November and 9 December at the Wembley Community Centre. The course also attracted a visitor to Rostrum, Rosemary Robertson.

Under the guidance of Director of Training Ruurd Speelman, and with assistance from trainers Rob Gates, Don Duck, Wayne Passmore, David Price, Ken Holzman, Joanna Whitney, Ben Riley and Rosemary Robertson, the participants learnt what was expected from a Critic/Tutor/Coach in a Rostrum meeting, and what they needed to look for in speakers' presentations. Then came the opportunity to put theory into practice – the participants gave critiques of speeches, readings aloud, impromptu answers, and other speaking exercises from a typical Rostrum meeting, and received feedback from the trainers on their performance and where they could improve.

Freeman Ruurd Speelman commented at the conclusion of the course '... it is quite special to have all starters finish both days. They were all very keen and really tried hard.'

The participants are expected to further develop their skills by practising as Trainee Critics in their own clubs until they are ready to apply for formal accreditation.

The Critics' Training Course is run periodically depending on demand, and is open to any member who has completed the Personal Development Programme. If you are eligible and would like to attend a course, please register your interest with Deb at the RIC.

Coming up in ...

FEBRUARY

21 Copy deadline for March *Informer*

23 Dais Reps Meeting

6.30 for 7 pm

Joan Watters Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley

MARCH

15 Dais Exec Meeting

6.30 pm

Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley

Information and course registration:

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Web www.rostrumwa.com.au

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Please send your Rostrum articles, photos, and announcements for the next issue to informer@rostrumwa.com.au
Rose Fogliani (Editor)

ALL WELCOME

Dais Reps Meeting, Friday 23 February

● **Outcome of Brainstorming Workshop**

● **Rostrum WA's 70th birthday**

Details above

Club 15 celebrates emerald anniversary 'on the green'

Club 15 turned 55 in September but the hustle and bustle of the AGSOY competition meant celebrations were put on hold until our end-of-year bash. And bash we did. Our Christmas wind-up usually involves a 'civilised' evening of drinks and nibbles at a local pub, but to celebrate our emerald anniversary, we went casual, kicked off our shoes and tried our luck at lawn bowls!

Current and past members, friends and our visiting Critics Joanna Whitney and Aldis Purins gathered at the Como Bowling Club on a warm evening in early December for a delicious chicken dinner – and then we descended onto the green!

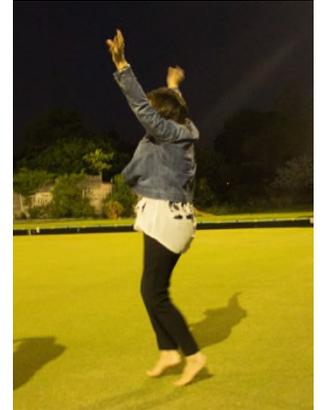
Who came up with this (crazy) idea?! There were only two or three who knew the rules but, in true Rostrum spirit, a few quick demos and encouraging feedback had us all bowling (not quite) like the professionals. We quickly learnt that it helps if you can (1) bowl reasonably straight, (2) keep your ball out of the adjacent game, (3) keep your feet out of the gutter and (4) avoid dropping the ball onto your toes.

Once the newly initiated lawn bowlers got the knack it was addictive, and it was with some reluctance that we returned to the clubroom to share a sinfully good chocolate cake and wish Club 15 a Happy 55th and each other a Merry Christmas.

Many thanks to Clarel Kelly and Ryan Whiddett for organising the bowling, Anna Piscicelli for organising dinner, Jacinth Watson for organising the cake, all the helpers for helping, and everyone for attending. Thanks also to Emily and Clarel for taking photos.

Congratulations Club 15 – roll on the next 55!

Rose Fogliani, Club 15



SAVE THE DATE!

Saturday 28 July 2018

Celebrate Rostrum WA's 70th birthday

Join us on Saturday 28 July 2018 for a gala dinner at Lake Karrinyup Country Club to celebrate **Rostrum WA's 70th birthday**.

An evening to celebrate our achievements, a look towards the future, entertainment, socialising and much more.

We need your help to make it a memorable evening – do you have any memorabilia, photos or special memories to share? Are you in contact with any former members who would like to attend?

Details on how you can help will be available shortly through your Club Exec.

Remember to mark **Saturday 28 July** in your calendar and join us in celebrating Rostrum WA's 70th birthday.

Freeman Sue Hart
President Rostrum WA





Special Delivery

North Pole Annual Report

The usual large flamboyant typeface associated with the Season's Greetings has been downsized this year commensurate with the trend toward corporate downsizing.

The recent announcement that Donner and Blitzen have elected to take the early reindeer retirement package has triggered a good deal of concern about whether they will be replaced, and about other restructuring decisions at the North Pole.

Streamlining was appropriate in view of the reality that the North Pole no longer dominates the season's gift distribution business. E-commerce and mail order catalogues have diminished Santa's market share and he could not sit idly by and permit further erosion of the profit picture.

The reindeer downsizing was made possible through the purchase of a late model fully imported sled for the CEO's annual trip. Improved productivity from Dasher and Dancer, who recently graduated as MBAs at the Harvard Business School, is anticipated and should take up the slack with no discernible loss of service. Reduction in reindeer will also lessen airborne environmental emissions for which the North Pole has been cited and received unfavourable press.

I am pleased to inform you that Rudolph's role will not be disturbed. Tradition still counts for something. Management denies, in the strongest possible language, the earlier leak that Rudolph's nose got that way not from the cold, but from substance abuse. Calling Rudolph 'a lush who was into the sauce and never did pull his share of the load' was an unfortunate comment, made by one of Santa's helpers and taken out of context at a time of year when he is known to be under executive stress.

As a further restructuring, today's global challenges require the North Pole to continue to look for better, more competitive steps. Effective immediately, the following economy measures are to take place in the 'Twelve Days of Christmas' subsidiary:

- The **partridge** will be retained, but the pear tree never turned out to be the cash crop forecasted. It will be replaced by a plastic hanging plant, providing considerable savings in maintenance.
- The **two turtle doves** are simply not cost effective. In addition, their romance during working hours could not be condoned. The positions are therefore eliminated.
- The **four calling birds** were replaced by an automated voice mail system, with a call waiting option. An analysis is underway to determine who the birds have been calling, how often and how long they talked.
- The Board of Directors has put the **five golden rings** on hold. Maintaining a portfolio based on one

commodity could have negative implications for institutional investors. Diversification into other precious metals as well as a mix of P-notes and other industrial equities appear to be in order.

- The **six geese-a-laying** constitutes a luxury which can no longer be afforded. It has long been felt that the production rate of one egg per goose per day is an example of the decline in productivity. Three geese will be let go, and an upgrading in the selection procedure by Personnel will assure Management that from now on every goose it gets will be a good one.
- The **seven swans-a-swimming** is obviously a number chosen in better times. The function is primarily decorative. Mechanical swans are on order.
- As you know, the **eight maids-a-milking** concept has been under heavy scrutiny by the Equal Opportunity Commission. A male/female balance in the workforce is being sought.
- **Ten Lords-a-leaping** is overkill. The high cost of Lords plus the expense of international air travel prompted the Compensation Committee to suggest replacing this group with ten out-of-work politicians. While leaping ability may be somewhat sacrificed, the savings are significant because we expect an oversupply of unemployed politicians this year.
- **Eleven pipers piping** and **twelve drummers drumming** is a simple case of the band getting too big. A substitution with a string quartet, a cutback on new music and no uniforms will produce savings, which will drop right down to the bottom line.

We can expect a substantial reduction in assorted people, fowl, animals and other expenses. Though incomplete, studies indicate that stretching deliveries over twelve days is inefficient. If we can instigate the 'Just in Time' principle, service levels will be improved.

Lastly, it is not beyond consideration that deeper cuts may be necessary in the future to stay competitive; should that happen, the Board would request Management to scrutinise the Snow White Division to see if seven dwarves is the right number.

[I don't know the source of this piece which appeared in a staff newsletter years ago and I've recently unearthed while spring cleaning. It appears some things never change. Ed.]

A final note –

Many thanks to everyone who contributed to the *Informer* during 2017: it is much appreciated! My apologies this issue missed its pre-Christmas target by a very wide margin; my New Year's resolution is to improve my aim.

HAPPY NEW YEAR and I hope to see you soon at a Rostrum event or two or three. Rose