

# The Informer



Publication in the last week of the month. Send contributions to: [rostruminformer@gmail.com](mailto:rostruminformer@gmail.com)



## From the President,

It's a pleasure to pen (type) my first informer article as president. It has been a big few months for Rostrum, from hosting the ARC conference and 70th dinner to busily developing and implementing a plan for the future. I think a lot of members can relate to the mantra "Eat, sleep, Rostrum, repeat!"

But there is a reason why we do it. Why Rostrum is on the menu for breakfast, brunch, lunch and dinner. We are passionate about the organisation, the camaraderie of being part of a club and the almost limitless opportunities for learning and development, whether it's through the programs, our coaches or each other.

Moving through the Reinvention process has assured me that with a clear strategy, a willingness to invest,

tenacity to stay the course, and the current team of members working to implement positive change, Rostrum will be around for a long time to come!

Momentum is an amazing thing and its clear the tides are turning, the ball is rolling and everyone is rowing in the same direction (I recently heard at a Rostrum meeting that metaphors are a good way to get your message across).

There is a lot of exciting events, content and initiatives on the radar for Rostrum WA and it's great to thing to be a part of. But don't take my word for it – read the rest of the informer and hear about all the great stuff happening across the organisation! If you want to know a bit more about me make sure to check out the back of the informer for an exclusive interview.

**02** ARC Conference, Showcase Meeting & 70th Celebration

**04** The Constitutional Club 1  
The rise of Phoenixes

**08** Meet our new President  
When did you joined Rostrum?



## ARC Conference, Showcase Meeting & 70th Celebration

This year, the ARC conference was hosted in Perth over a weekend in July, as part of the celebrations for Rostrum WA's 70th birthday! WA were excited to host the ARC President, Secretary, Treasurer, Webmaster and Zone Presidents.

The weekend kicked off with an all-day conference at The Rendezvous in Perth, where the morning focused on reinventing Rostrum. An update from QLD President Doug Bates was followed with a reinvention session from WA's then vice-Presidents Riley Burkett, David Price and Carmel Phillipe. It is clear that WA is very much leading the way and the Reinvention received a great response from all zone presidents.

After lunch, Jenny Blain the National Webmaster, took the attendees

through the National website before the conference was wrapped up by a session on social media from guru Jo Saunders. Jo's expertise was enlightening, and everyone was able to walk away with some clear strategies on how to better leverage social media at a state and ARC level. Finally, the ARC attendees were treated to a Club 19 evening showcase meeting in West Perth. In true Club 19 style, the meeting was filled with lots of laughter, surprise and diversity. Some key highlights from the meeting were:

- Having Ron Jeffery in attendance. Ron was the founding club 19 president and a great longtime supporter of the organisation;
- Impromptu speeches from ARC members, showing everyone how it's done; and

- Socialising with a great bunch of both familiar and new faces Saturday morning saw the end of the formal conference meetings after which The ARC attendees made their way to the National Rostrum Voice of Youth final at The Boulevard Centre in Floreat.

The evening was spent amongst Rostrum members to celebrate Rostrum WA's 70th anniversary at the Western Australian Golf Club. What a great night and well done to all those involved in pulling together such a successful evening. Piggy backing off the energy of the evening an impromptu final brainstorming workshop was held Sunday morning to allow conversations to continue about reinventing Rostrum and ensuring the energy and excitement continued!



## R Allan Crook Club of Excellence Award

Rostrum clubs of Western Australia are invited to submit their applications for the award of Club of Excellence for the period October 2017 to September 2018.

Your submission should cover those activities and programmes of your club that you believe would make it a worthy winner of this Award. The following categories are listed to assist you in writing your submission but you do not need to limit yourself to them.

In putting your submission together you may like to consider the following:

- Membership
- Your Club
- Your club and Rostrum WA
- Extension of Rostrum in the community

The final product should be limited to no more than six (6) A4 pages. Submissions are due by Friday the 9th of November. For a more detail on the process and the criteria please email: [ric@rostrumwa.com.au](mailto:ric@rostrumwa.com.au)



## The Constitutional Club 1

### *The rise of Phoenixes*

On 28th August 2018, the motion, "That Clubs 33, 1 and 2 be amalgamated into Club 1 and be known as the Constitutional Club 1", was carried with 80% (16/20) members were in favour.

On this special meeting, before the names of Clubs 33, 1 and 2 disappeared, members from these clubs shared their own inspirational club histories which painted a clear picture of how Rostrum has helped many well-known professionals including judges to improve their confidence and public speaking skills, and many other members who used the skills acquired at Rostrum to successfully occupy positions of importance in their chosen careers.



Club 1 was started way back in 1948 by Arthur Garvey, whose son Graeme remained an active member until poor health prevented him from continuing. Members from the early days include Sir Charles Court and the lawyer, High Court Judge and social activist Ronald Wilson, who was obviously a great believer in the value of Rostrum. When a young lawyer appeared before him, unable to coherently express himself, Judge Wilson said, "You, young man, need to go to Rostrum". Memory of Club 1, a Perpetual Shield awarded to Aldis Purins as the 1994 outstanding Orator (see picture).

Club 2 formed quickly after Club 1 and led by a long-term member Norm Knell, a champion footballer for West Perth Football Club. Norm was a polished speaker and great Rostrum's advocate for many years. Norm delivered some fascinating speeches about his time with West Perth. Not only were there no large salaries, but the players even had to pay for admission to the ground on match days! Norm was well regarded as a gentleman and a great clubman. Many respectable members such as Journalist Ted Joll and the Poet Clyde Adams who brought excitement to the club with many stories from historical news to magical places in the bush. Craig Billing joined Club 2 in 1992 and is still an active member of the new Constitutional Club 1.



Over time, the membership started to decline, as it did with so many organisations, and some clubs chose to merge. Club 2 joined force with Club 1 and had some memorable initiatives - Santa (Graeme Garvey) Claus wore a costume and a beard bringing the season to life for one and all.

While Club 28 was formed by Maurie Hotchkin and Lach Christie and quickly became a very successful club with 40 members at one time and was twice a winner of the R Alan Crook Award for the best Rostrum Club in W.A. Several of its members used Rostrum skills and rose to executive positions in large organisations. Peter Rogers gained a director role in Fisheries, Peter Kent became the Telstra Chief Engineer and, Jane Gerick, served one term as Federal Member for Canning. Freeman Julian Rice is the only Rostrum Life Member still an active club member who won the club speaker of the year in 1999 and 2000 as evidenced on the Rostrum Club 28 Perpetual Shield. Club 28 disbanded in 2004 when Priscilla Nguyen, President of the new Club 1 was the last winner. John Gardner and Eddie Dell are also active members from Club 28.

Club 33 was led by Freeman Neil Durston and was the first club to have female members before Rostrum shook off the remnants of being a male only organisation. Club 33 initially held meetings at Dumas House and moved to the Constitutional Centre since 1999. Long standing members of Club 33 are Steve Longwood and Derek Sparkes who are still active members of the Constitutional Club 1.

Steve Longwood joined Club 33 in 1988 with is active members Due to membership decline, Club 28 then merged to Club 33 in 2005, both of which had their fair share of members who went on to build very successful careers. They had an excellent and secure venue in the Constitutional Centre in West Perth and a stable membership. In 2017 Clubs 1 and 2 had both a declining membership and difficulty in finding a suitable venue and the decision was made to join with Club 33. This has proved highly successful and has had benefits for both clubs.



A reborn of Club 1 (also known as the rise of phoenixes) has aligned with the Rostrum Reinvention to look for opportunities to revitalise the club and create synergy across members. The Constitutional Club 1 currently has 25 members and is now led by President Priscilla Nguyen together with 5-member committee with Peter Taylor being the Secretary, Derek Sparkes being the Program Director and John Gardner being the Treasurer. Club 1 now has a new vision to grow the club and is actively committed to be innovative to promote Rostrum and server members with exciting and interesting speech development programs.

Watch this space!

*Priscilla Nguyen, Club 1 President*



## SAVE THE DATE!

- AGSOY Final – Saturday evening the 24th of November at Club 15, Eastman Lounge at the Perth Hockey Stadium, Curtin University. (Details to follow)
- Coaches Club - Tuesday 27th November at 6:30pm to 08:00pm, at Tom Dadour Community Centre, Bagot Road, Subiaco.
- End of Year Sundowner - Sunday 9th Dec at 3:00pm @ Kings Park.
- Rostrum Relaunch convention - Saturday the 16th of February at Wollaston Conference Centre (Details to follow)

Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year 16 entrants have entered the AGSOY competition this year with the final being held at Club 15 on Saturday 24th November. Given the grandeur and success of the 70th . We thought it was appropriate to leave the gowns and ties at home for this one and keep things a little more casual. It will still be a sit down even with a 2 course meal for a very reasonable cost of around \$30.

The final will feature 6 finalists with 2 taken from each of the 3 heats scheduled for:

- Monday the 22nd of October at club 2230
- Thursday the 25th of October at club 19; and
- Friday the 26th of October at club 34.

## Coaches Club

A product of the Rostrum Reinvention learning and development focus, Rostrum Coaches Club has had encouraging interest and great feedback and the group have already met twice with a third get-together coming up.

The goal is to support and refine our experienced coaches and recruit and train new coaches, as well as to prepare all Rostrum coaches to be across the new look Rostrum Program. Each meeting has a structure (although not always the same format) with a focus on:

- Information;
- idea-sharing and networking;
- education;



- development; and of course:
- entertainment!

It's an opportunity to have significant input to the Coaches program of the future, share what works and what doesn't in a collegiate environment, hone your coaching skills, and learn new coaching techniques!

Both sessions to date have had very good turnout and received positive feedback with a resounding "yes" vote to continue with regular Coaches Club get-togethers. The Coaches Club sessions will be offered at least quarterly and all current coaches (whether active or not) and their guests, trainee coaches, and potential future coaches are welcome to attend, and anyone from the general membership is also welcome.

Coaches Club next meets on Tuesday 27th November at 6:30pm to 08:00pm, at Tom Dadour Community Centre, Bagot Road, Subiaco.

*Please RSVP to Carmel Philippe, Vice President – Development, via email at [carmelp@westnet.com.au](mailto:carmelp@westnet.com.au) or text to 0403-751-383,*

if you'd interested in attending, as a coach, guest, or just an interested member – **ALL are WELCOME!**

*Carmel Phillippe, Rostrum Vice President, Learning and Development*

## End of Year Sundowner

A focus of Rostrum reinvention is to build and foster the Rostrum community. This means getting together more often and socialising, learning from and engaging with your fellow Rostrum members

To celebrate what has been a big year for Rostrum clubs and the Reinvention team we will be hosting a casual BBQ and get together on Sunday 9th Dec from 3pm @ Kings Park. Rostrum will put on some snaggers but feel free to bring a plate of nibbles.

This will be a family affair, and everyone is welcome - feel free to bring anyone who would appreciate the atmosphere and a good yarn – we know Rostrum members love to talk!

It should be a great afternoon and is a chance to catch up more casually over a sausage and a soft drink! Look forward to seeing everyone there.

*Katelyn Lane, Rostrum Events Committee*

## Rostrum clubs of WA relaunch

The reinvention team is combining the old with the new and will be hosting a full day relaunch convention!

Keep an eye out for further details but for now make sure to block out the calendar on Saturday the 16th of February.

We will be launching our new core program, coaches training and marketing material whilst introducing new events, forums and development opportunities.

All members past and present are encouraged to attend what should be an action packed and fun day which will set us up for a big 2019!

Riley Burkett, Rostrum President

## Meet our new President

### When did you joined Rostrum?

I initially joined Rostrum because I was SH\*T scared of public speaking! Public speaking had always been a massive fear of mine and something I struggled with throughout school and university. Think quivering lip, shaky voice, red face and a lot of sweat. Despite the fear and perspiration, I was determined to not let it hold me back in my career and was introduced to Rostrum by an ex work mate and early mentor. After my first meeting roughly 3 years ago I never looked back and the process of turning one of my biggest fears into key a strength has been unbelievably empowering, a concept that has filtered into all aspects of my life.

### What you like most about Rostrum and your club?

Without sounding too preachy (hard for a passionate Rostrumite) I will give you my top 3. Getting to know new and interesting people, developing my own skill set in a diverse range of areas and having the opportunity to see fellow members develop their speaking skills and gain confidence.

### What you like to do in your spare time?

Lucky I can pull this segment straight of my online dating profile! I enjoy keeping fit, travel, catching up with mates and don't mind pushing my comfort zone and giving things a go...no wonder I haven't got any matches! I am a pretty open book so grab me for a chat and get ready to discuss the only real use of my spare time - Rostrum Reinvention!

### What led you to Dais Executive, particularly to nominate for President?

I was able to successfully lead club 19 to back to back club of excellence awards as president and have always believed in what the model Rostrum offers. Being somewhat ambitious, determined and passionate about Rostrum I was confident I could offer the organisation a lot of value and believed the role of President offered me the most scope to do this.

I was fortunate that Sue Hart supported me through the process and I was able to work closely with the current Vice Presidents David Price and Carmel Philippe who

gave me the support and confidence needed to nominate for the role. It's been a great opportunity to give things a red-hot crack and see what we as an organisation are capable of. I truly believe we can surprise ourselves!

### What vision do you have for Rostrum WA?

My vision for Rostrum WA is simple. Engage passionate members and empower them to drive positive change within the organisation, ensuring we are relevant long into the future.

I truly believe that by modernising our approach, keeping members at the centre of what we do and further developing the Rostrum community we will be well positioned to turn the organisation around. The time is right for change and I believe that we can both keep that intangible Rostrum magic we all know whilst modernising the way we go about things to ensure we are providing value to all current and future members.

I am excited for the journey ahead and am confident there is enough passion, determination and know how in the organisation to keep us around... and growing for another 70 years.

