

# The Informer



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



## From the President,

Even 6 weeks in the Kimberley doing my best Russel Coight or Alby Mangels impersonation (depending on your generation) couldn't keep me away from Rostrum. Whilst I wrestled crocs and fended off snakes, the Rostrum Management Committee and Reinvention team were able to keep me updated on all the great things happening across the organisation.

During my travels it was great to hear the AGSOY final was such a success. Congratulations to all those who participated throughout the competition. It's a great learning curve and an awesome way to improve your speaking skills.

A huge thankyou to all the clubs who hosted heats and to Club 15 for hosting the final. These events wouldn't happen without the support and effort of our passionate membership base!

Leading into the end of the year I want to thank everyone for their contributions throughout 2018. It has been a big year of change for

the organisation and I appreciate everyone's patience and support.

2019 is shaping up to be an exciting year as we align our efforts and really look to empower and support clubs to reach their goals and grow the organisation. I really think we are in a position to surprise everyone (even ourselves) of what we can achieve over the next 12 months and I look forward to the journey...watch this space!

For now, remember to rest up, enjoy your time off and stay safe over the holidays. I look forward to seeing you all next year and hearing about your own adventures over the break.

## AGSOY Final



The Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year Competition had a very different look this year but there was certainly no difference in the quality and competition between our finalists. Sixty members gathered in Club 15's meeting venue in the Eastman Lounge at Hockey WA to catch up with each other and enjoy a very tasty roast dinner and a cheeky slice of Black Forrest for dessert.

And of course, the highlight of the evening, the competition speeches. Mat Lane (Club 19), Derek

Sparkes (Club 1), Tegan Chick (Club 5), Roy Sainsbury (Club 50), Greg Swensen (Club 19) and Jan Teasdale (Club 21) one by one delivering entertaining, informing and captivating speeches.

The evening was navigated expertly by Damien Roberts (Club 15) who had spent many hours of preparation in the hours before the evening scoring runs, wickets and otherwise at his children's Saturday cricket match.

Proceedings were opened with the Rostrum Toast delivered by 2017 winner, Rob Huth (Club 19). Rob inspired the audience with his words whilst acknowledging all of the competition finalists' dedication and preparation, wishing them well for the evening ahead. David Price followed Rob to deliver a message on behalf of Rostrum Clubs of WA President, Riley Burkett, reflecting on the challenges and achievements of our great organisation in 2018.

All of our finalists were worthy of the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year Trophy but there could only be one winner with Tegan Chick receiving the crown of Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year with Mathew Lane a very close Runner-up.

Many thanks are given to the adjudicators – Freeman David Price, Freeman Ken Holzman, Freeman Wayne Passmore, Carmel Philippe and Nadia Truong tasked with the enormous challenge in choosing the winners. Thanks also to the Timekeepers, Ellita de Nardi and Jacinth Watson, and to all of Club 15 for organising the competition and the final.

Many thanks to all the competitors and clubs involved with the heats, we hope this year inspired many of you to enter the 2019 competition.



### **Rostrum BBQ in Kings Park**

13 from 3 clubs people attended the end of year BBQ in Kings Park on Sunday, December 9th. There was much discussion about subjects from miniature spirits bottles through to electrical cabling in roof spaces and boxing tournaments.

**Thanks to Carol Corney for organising the event.**

## **Name change and Adoption of new Rules**

A Special General Meeting was held on Monday, December 3rd to consider two special resolutions.

34 people attended the meeting in person including all members of the RMC (Rostrum Management Committee). Members from 8 clubs were physically present - 61% of the clubs. Every other club was represented by at least one proxy so every club in the Zone was represented in the vote in some way.

Proxies were received from 64 members from 8 clubs. Together with proxies, that gave us a total of 98 votes - exactly 50% of the total membership.



### **The results were:**

To change the name to Rostrum Clubs of WA - 96.9% in favour, 2 against, 1 abstention, - motion carried.

**Adoption of the new Rules - 100% in favour - no abstentions - motion carried unanimously.**

This is a very strong result and certainly provides a strong foundation and vote of confidence for the work the Reinvention Team has been doing during 2018.

The new Rules were lodged with the relevant government department on December 4th.

David Price  
Vice President - Governance  
Rostrum Clubs of WA

## Constitutional Club 1 won the 2018 R Alan Crook Award

Saturday 24th November 2018, at the final of the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year AGSOY, the Constitutional Club 1 was named Rostrum WA Club of The Year 2018.

Club 1 fully met the judging criteria to win the prestigious award, as in the past year, the Constitutional Club 1 was judged to have made significant changes by consolidating the Club under the Club 1 name while ensuring its continuity, boosting membership, developing new programs and undertaking many initiatives to promote Rostrum through its community and a wider public.



From left, Greg Swenson (club's coach), Priscilla Nguyen (President), John Gardner (Treasurer), Peter Taylor (Secretary), Derek Sparkes (Prog. Dir)

### Below are some of the highlights of the Club's achievements:

Firstly, we sought directions and guidance from the Rostrum Management Council to amalgamate our three clubs (Clubs 1 and 2, 28 and 33) to form the new Constitutional Club 1. This was also a way to revitalise these formerly active clubs into a larger entity in its own right, consistent with Rostrum's Reinvention initiative and to honour the 70th anniversary of Rostrum Clubs in Western Australia.



Constitutional-club 1's members celebrating the A

We chose the sub-name "The Constitutional Club" to reflect our meeting venue at the Constitutional Centre in West Perth and appreciate the synergy of "Constitutional" with the Rostrum WA Constitution that underpins Rostrum in this State and that Club 1 is the founding club.

Over the period of judging, we inducted seven new members.

We also conducted many exciting and interesting meetings through innovative contents and this encouraged members to undertake and complete personal development programs.

We also undertook other exciting initiatives to provide additional learning opportunities for members at our weekly meetings. We offered these opportunities to all members in the Rostrum community. The two 'speech and voice' sessions run by an external professional speech and voice trainer – Donald Woodburn from WAAPA (see picture) – attracted attendance and interest among members and the community and these sessions were well received. Donald taught us how to use our voice to connect and influence the audience; in other words, as an alternative formula to improve our public speaking skills and confidence.



Alan cook award at the last meeting of the year

We also took an initiative to promote Rostrum in general. An example of this was how we reached out to the community in the West Perth-Subiaco area, with the publication of an article in the Subiaco Post, which featured Myia Cleggett being awarded winner of Club 1's 2017 Speaker of the Year Competition. Myia was a worthy winner of the award. She is an Expert Master Clinical Hypnotherapist and an example of the broadened spectrum of new members who have come to Club 1 to enhance their public speaking skills and confidence as a way to advance their profession.

In addition, Club 1 have always shown strong support for Rostrum activities, particularly the AGSOY events. This year, Club 1 entered 6 members in the 2018 AGSOY competition and had a strong attendance at 70th Rostrum WA anniversary dinner.

Considering all the above and other recent activities within the Club, long-term coach Greg Swensen

## Boosting confidence through speaking out

**Rostrum Club 33 offers a friendly and enjoyable way to improve confidence, public speaking, leadership and meeting skills.**

Members work with experienced coaches who help them to reach their personal speaking goals.

People go to Rostrum Club 33 in West Perth for various reasons.

They may have a wedding, a work presentation or special occasion at which they want to give a good speech.

They may want to be more confident in running meetings at work, or they may be members of sporting clubs or other associations where they run meetings.

Start by heading along to a meeting at Rostrum Club 33, which meets every Tuesday, 12.30 to 1.30pm, in West Perth.

Rostrum's personal development program includes 12 exercises and practical sessions



Myia Cleggett, right, winner of the Rostrum 33 Club's Speaker of the Year competition, is congratulated by club President Priscilla Nguyen.

over about six months to make a competent speaker.

Club 33 meets in the courtyard meeting room of the Constitution Centre of WA in Havelock Street, West Perth.

For further information, contact John on 9389 8289 or email gardnerj@inet.net.au

encouraged the Club to enter into the R. Alan Crook Award for being the best club of the year. The President of Club 1 then took the lead to compile the application and its winning content was a team effort by all members.



We celebrated this achievement at our last fun meeting of the year on 27 November 2018 with a light lunch. The Christmas meeting featured impromptu speeches, with topics and mystery objects drawn out of the Christmas Gift box, which enabled members to deliver entertaining and imaginative made-up stories.

At this final meeting for 2018, a number of members received special commendations from the President, including Ito Makito for the most improved speaker (see picture) and Johanna Notley, who was the Club's 2018 Speaker of The Year winner (see picture). Every member competed for the trophy including new members. The Club had four heats with six members competing in the final. Johanna delivered an amazing speech, "Draw the line" with many twists and turns. Congratulations!

A number of Presidential awards were also presented to outstanding members for their achievements and contributions to the Club in 2018 (see pictures); particularly the invaluable contribution from Freeman Julian Rice who has been a pillar of the Club for many years.

As you can see Club 1 has a strong mix of both men and women, and a spread of both experienced and newer members.

We have already started to plan ahead for 2019, to further expand the Club and of course support retention of the R. Alan Crook Award in 2019!

## Vale

### Freeman Dave Williams 16th July 1938 – 12th September 2018

Dave Williams became a member of Rostrum Club 14, Geraldton at its inaugural meeting on the 5th of October 1974, he missed the first expression of interest meeting, but was a regular attender from then on. Rostrum quickly became a large part of his life, the friendship and fellowship across the state continued until his passing.

He fulfilled many executive positions in his early membership, being the Club Secretary for the 300th meeting. Shortly afterwards he was appointed the Club's Dais representative where he found his Rostrum niche. He served as Club 14's representative for 21 years, alerting other clubs of our differing views and news and delivering fulsome reports to the Club of Dais' deliberations. He was a critic/coach and gave an interesting perspective on our efforts as Rostrum presenters. Dave became a Freeman in May 1990, and served as Dais Vice President in 1991 and 1992, travelling to Perth for many of the Dais Executive meetings, and accompanying Dais President Geoff Jones, by bus, to Broome to elevate their club. Dave was awarded a Bronze Medallion on the 30th of October 2004 for long time service to Club 14

Dave travelled with many members of Club 14 to assist Club 40 in Carnarvon to re-establish. He was also instrumental in getting Club 51 in Dongara running, attending many of their meetings as a coach or doing various presentations at their meetings. He was one of the members who presented to the Eneabba Progress Association about Rostrum and its ideals. He

travelled to England twice and made a point of visiting Rostrum's Yew tree birth place.

Dave was born in Albany, the eldest of five boys and one girl. He attended primary school in Albany and then went to New Norcia Agricultural School as a boarder. On completion of his schooling he obtained a position with one of Albany's bigger building companies, Zimmer and Wildy, as an apprentice carpenter. The majority of his apprenticeship was in the joiner's shop, and he became a very skilled cabinetmaker/joiner.

A lot of his leisure time was spent at the Princess Royal Yacht Club where he sailed VJ yachts to the stage where he competed in State Titles. In 1954 the Albany Surf Club was reformed, and although Dave was never a strong swimmer he became a member and participated in their activities.

He met Judy, who became his wife, through his mother, who was Judy's mother's best friend. When Judy's family was transferred to Perth, block release trips to Mt. Lawley Technical School allowed the courtship to continue to flourish. Mt Lawley Technical College, not only allowed a long range courtship to prosper, but the College awarded him Apprentice of the Year in his first year. They married in April 1963, and Dave started working for Wesfarmers assembling pre-cut rural homes over large parts of Western Australia, where he worked with all building trades and becoming competent in many of them. He and Judy also took on the management of the Greenough River Caravan Park, which with

Dave's construction time away meant Judy did a lot of park management. During this time Dave built a house for his family which grew when two daughters, Lee and Kerry were born. Completion of his building time with Wesfarmers and park management saw Dave begin a thriving renovation and cabinet making career, which he continued for the rest of his life.

Timber was another passion in Dave's life; Club 14 heard many stories of wood and its many interactions with Dave's life. He ended up with a large collection of many types of timber, some rare and valuable. A collection that he often referred to as his superannuation. A memorial service for Dave was held at the Geraldton Golf Club on the 25th of September, and Dave's family wished Rostrum Club 14 to conduct the celebration of his life. An honour that the Club did their best to fulfil.

Rose Fogliani



## Introducing Rostrum Club 39 Speaker Cheryl Hilson



Cheryl was born with quadriplegic disability which put her in a wheelchair permanently.

Cheryl joined Rostrum Club 39 in March 2018 and attends meetings with a carer. Cheryl is proud to be a member of the club and wears her Rostrum badge at every meeting with pride. Cheryl participates in all relevant activities in the meeting and to her credit has completed eight of the Personal Development Program (PDP) exercises.

As Cheryl has said, Rostrum Club 39 has been good for Cheryl and having Cheryl is good for the Club! Cheryl has told her story in a recent speech to the Club entitled 'Hopes and Dreams', a condensed version of which follows.

Hopes & Dreams

I became a member of Rostrum on the 13th March 2018. My reason for joining Rostrum was to improve my public speaking skills and with a goal towards starting my own public speaking/disability awareness business.

The Rostrum Club I have joined is Club 39 in the Swan Midland Region. I am a mature lady with a disability. I have found Rostrum to be very inclusive and supportive and it is a good opportunity for me to gain the confidence I need to educate the wider community and raise awareness about people with a disability.

Rostrum has guided and supported me to build my confidence and learn how to function in formal meeting circumstances and to speak with more confidence than I had.

Earlier this month I was asked to give a media interview: whilst nervous, I drew on the skills I had learned through Rostrum and gave a speech.

I think Rostrum is a good opportunity for all people but especially those with challenges because it is safe and supportive environment for building self-confidence and giving people their voices.

Club 39 for me has been a safe and encouraging place to express myself. Despite its small numbers it is a very energetic club. I have only been a member for a very short time but have already accomplished several steps in the Personal Development Program, I have so far passed 8 out of the 12 steps. Rostrum is a stepping stone for me to have the skills to have a successful business in the future.

I hope that this article may inspire others to find the value of Rostrum and like me have a go.

Cheryl Hilson

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## **Rostrum's Latest Accredited Coach**

Congratulations to Lauren O'Neill who completed her coaching assessment at Club 19 last week and is now an Accredited Coach for Rostrum Clubs of WA.

Becoming a coach is one of the best ways to expand your knowledge and skill as a speaker and Rostrum is always looking for talented people who want to grow. One of the great things about training to become a coach is that the skills are directly transferable to your work, especially if you work with or supervise other people.

Keep an eye open for the announcement of the next Coaches Training to be held early in 2019.



## The Rostrum WA events committee needs you!



**WE NEED  
YOU**

Come be a part of the broader Rostrum Clubs of WA movement and join our events committee.

We are looking for committed members to attend only 4 meetings a year to help plan, strategise and execute Rostrum's social events.

Please email Rostrum Events with your expressions of interest by the 21st December 2018 so you don't miss out.

Rostrumwaevents@gmail.com  
Elliot Chipper, Rostrum Events Committee

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### **Wembley Speaking Club (Club34) to move to Thursday evenings**

From the first meeting in 2019 on January 31st, Club 34 - the Wembley Speaking Club will move to become a Thursday evening club. The club has been considering the change for a long time. The club has decided that the lunchtime meeting model is very difficult to attract new members.

The venue will be The Undercroft, Floreat Uniting Church, Kirkdale Avenue, Floreat. If other Rostrum members know people who live in the Western Suburbs and can benefit from Rostrum, then this could be exactly what they are looking for. The contact person for the club is David Price - 041 8888 018.

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## Empowering the mind



Workshop by Master Clinical Hypnotherapist Myia Cleggett, a member of Club 1

On Tuesday 2nd Oct 2018, Club One enjoyed hearing Expert Master Clinical Hypnotherapist Myia Cleggett, a member of Club 1, shared her tools and tips on empowering the mind. She showed us how to collaborate with our mind and overcome any fears or phobias of speaking in public. The audience learnt how to powerfully dialogue with their subconscious mind to achieve great results as an engaging confident speaker. They experienced a Guided Visualisation exercise, filled with positive suggestions on how to feel relaxed and at ease, when speaking or presenting.

If any Club wishes to arrange for a similar session for their members. Myia would be happy to share, please contact Club 1.

Priscilla Nguyen, Club 1 President

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 be sure to block out the date in your calendar – Saturday 16th of February 2019.

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

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Riley Burkett,  
Rostrum President

## What a ride! Time to do other things'

After eight years and 50 issues, the time is right to hand over the Editor's job to someone else.

Rostrum in WA is changing – there is a new name, a new logo and shortly the organisation will operate under a new set of Rules. The Reinvention Team has reviewed how the Rostrum functions in WA and has begun introducing changes at all levels to make it more efficient, more relevant and more attractive to current and prospective members.

So too with our newsletter, the Informer. It has undergone many changes since the first issue appeared in February 1980. From a single sheet of coloured paper printed front and back and distributed at club meetings, it is now a multi-page newsletter with colour photos and diverse and variable content in each issue, emailed directly to members. Its main purpose, however, to keep each member informed of current Rostrum events and ideas, has not changed.

I took on the role of Editor as a challenge and an opportunity to learn new skills, an extension of the reason I joined Rostrum in the first place. I have had so much fun in the process, it has been a joy and a privilege to carry out that role. Now other opportunities beckon.

Thank you to everyone who contributed articles, photos, ideas and snippets of information over the past eight years. A newsletter is only as good as its content, and the feedback has been valuable and much appreciated.

I hope the Informer continues to be an effective means of communication for Rostrum in WA – a statement of who we are, a record of where we've been, and a vision of where we strive to be. I wish it and Rostrum in WA every success.

### **Former Editor**

*Freeman Rose Fogliani*

