



ROSTRUM
CLUBS OF WA

The Informer

September 2019

President's Report by Lauren O'Neill (Club 19)

What a whirlwind start to my term as President of Rostrum Clubs of WA! Over the weekend of 26th and 27th of July I braved the cold and headed on over to Hobart to represent WA at the annual Australian Rostrum Council Conference.

The ARC Conference itinerary included many Rostrum related discussion sessions, but before we got down to business the ARC members and guests attended a local Rostrum meeting, at which two new members were inducted into Hobart Club 17. One of my favourite things about Rostrum is that it is such a supportive learning environment, and it was encouraging to see this is no different on the other side of the country.

Sadly it seems many of the other zones are facing similar issues to that which we were facing here in WA – declining membership and a need to become more relevant in today's changing society. Victoria has taken steps towards implementing a strategic plan, which, unsurprisingly had very similar focus areas to that of WA's reinvention. I proudly presented the Launchpad Program in the new compendium to each Zone President, and a working committee was formed so that Launchpad may be reviewed in other zones with a view to implementing the program in the coming months – the Reinvention Team's hard work is being recognised across the nation!

The national Rostrum Voice of Youth final was held on Saturday 27th July at the Friends' School, an impressive, professional venue in North Hobart. However the venue was not to be outdone by the calibre of the teenage speakers that day. It was almost impossible to separate the winners from the pack, with each of the competitors tackling world issues in a masterful display of public speaking and that engaging combination of emotional and intellectual impact. I was very impressed by the standard of the speakers and would love for WA to be a part of developing young speakers through such a program. If anyone is interested in co-ordinating the Voice of Youth Competition in Perth in 2020, please get in touch!

Back in WA, we have the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year heats kicking off the competition next week, September 8th – 11th. Congratulations to all who have entered, whether you are taking the next step in your Rostrum journey and pushing yourself out of your comfort zone, or whether you are coming back for round two or three or four! I strongly encourage members to go along to the heats, support your club members who are competing and the clubs who are hosting, they are each sure to be entertaining evenings! While you're at it you should mark the date in your diaries now – the final of the AGSoY will be held along with the annual dinner on Saturday 9 November 2019 at the Western Australian Golf Club in Yokine. More details to follow.

Lastly, I will close with a reminder to everyone of the Just Bring One initiative that Freeman David Price coined late last year. To ensure the vitality and longevity of Rostrum Clubs of Western Australia, we all need to be spreading the word of the skills Rostrum teaches and the confidence that comes along with learning those skills. We are all walking, talking advertisements for Rostrum and if we can each just bring one visitor and convert them to a member, we will be well on the way to securing Rostrum's future in WA!

Club Birthdays

Southern Star Speaking Group (Albany) by Karen Reid (Club 63)

A jolly crowd of twenty or so landed at Karen Reid's place in Albany to celebrate the 450th meeting of SOUTHERN STAR SPEAKING GROUP. A largely social evening with plenty of food and laughter, the highlights of the evening were:

1. President Chris Walker's speech on the history of the Club and bright hopes for its future.
2. Fm Mike Reed being awarded Honorary Life Membership for his devoted service over many years to the Albany Clubs. Well deserved Mike, congratulations!
3. The CAKE! It was professionally made by club member/chef Catena Skalko, and tasted even better than it looks. Just as we thought nothing could eclipse Catena's Profiteroles...

So when you're down here in Albany, look us up and pay a visit!

You're ALL welcome.



450 meetings

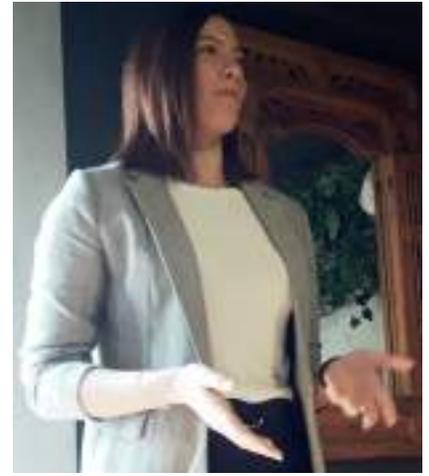


Club Birthdays

Constitutional Club 1 (West Perth) by Priscilla Nguyen & Peter Taylor

On Tuesday 3rd September, Rostrum Constitutional Club 1, held a special meeting at the Cherry and Grapes restaurant in West Perth to celebrate its 2000th meeting. The Rostrum Clubs of WA President, Lauren O'Neill, was also present to help us to celebrate with a special meet and greet plus a President's report.

The agenda was full of humorous speeches as a way of lightening the morale and making it a fun and memorable celebration. Some members even took advantage of a glass of wine at lunchtime to help control the nerves before delivering their humorous speeches.



2000 meetings



Perth CBD Rostrum Club Network

Clubs 1, 19, 4/8, RAC-1 Club Networking

by Peter Taylor (Club 1)

On Wednesday 7th August, the four Rostrum Clubs based in West Perth met at Stables Bar in Hay Street for a catch up. The idea was to find interesting ways to work together to introduce greater collaboration, variety and social interaction. The RAC based club, the newest in WA, has an enthusiastic membership led by Danika Glasgow-Collins, and is keen to gain from and interact with experienced speakers from the older more established clubs. Guest coaches are already doing a great job. Nevertheless, there's nothing quite like seeing an advanced speaker in full flight to inspire.

So those attending agreed that once a quarter, one club should host an event or workshop which would be open to the other clubs. Challenges such as interclub debates and competition speeches would add that extra thrill. In between times, the club secretaries would ask volunteers to attend another club's meeting to show the variety and different styles of individual speakers. The guest speakers would have the opportunity to speak in front of different people.

With the festive season coming up, we would organise a Sundowner where all club members could meet. It's a great initiative to share styles, ideas, meeting formats and in particular some memorable speeches in front of a new group of people.

This networking event was featured in
The Post local newspaper, Sat 31 August 2019.

No bar to speaking out with panache

The four West Perth Rostrum Clubs got together recently at Stables Bar in Hay Street to catch up and find interesting ways to enhance their confidence-building speaking skills.

The enthusiastic new RAC-based club, led by Danika Glasgow-Collins, was keen to learn from experienced speakers at the more established clubs.

Rostrum has a system of guest coaches who provide feedback and advice, but there's nothing quite like seeing an advanced speaker in full flight to inspire.

The four clubs are planning quarterly events, with a different club hosting an event or workshop for the others.

Interclub debates and competition speeches will add that extra thrill and learning experience.

Volunteers will also attend other clubs to showcase and cross-pollinate speaking styles and ideas.

For enquiries or further information, call Peter Taylor on 0408 222 136, John Gardner on 9389 8289, or email herbertaylor@gmail.com.



Danika Glasgow-Collins is leading a new RAC-based Rostrum Club.

Speaking and Meeting articles

Why the difference between *misinformation* and *disinformation* in meetings matters

by David Price (Club 34)

The meaning of misinformation is often merged with that of disinformation, but they are not interchangeable. You cannot put them together as they are very different.

Disinformation is when someone deliberately misleads by sending biased or manipulated facts on purpose. Often the data is crafted and disseminated with the intent to mislead others. In a meeting, it can be called a “curved ball”, a “diversion”, a “smokescreen” or a ‘hidden agenda’. Disinformation is often peddled by toxic people – yes there are lots of them.

Misinformation is when people spread information **they believe to be true**, with **no intent** to cause harm or confusion. They may be ‘the know it all’ in a meeting, and jump up to have their say without fact checking first. This is often termed opinion disguised as fact. It’s very common.

So the difference between the two comes down to intent.

To further **confuse** the issue, is the fact that a piece of **disinformation** can ultimately become **misinformation**. It all depends on who’s sharing it and why.

This matters in meetings. All information that is spoken of in a meeting should, of course, be true. This assumption is and should be made in meetings, but not everyone may share the same goals and vision for the company.

Information shared in a meeting, can be misinformation or disinformation. This could be done innocently or it can be done quite deliberately. If someone has their own personal hidden agenda then this is disinformation designed to steer the meeting to a different outcome. If you are running this meeting, or you are part of the meeting, the best way to deal with this is to call it out by asking the person to provide evidence for their view or claims. The question to ask could be, “*what proof do you have of that?*” or “*where is your evidence for that?*” If the issue is important, this should be minuted so it is followed up. It is paramount you know of a **person’s intent** with the information they share at the meeting.



The Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year

Competition Heats begin next week!

Heat 1

Monday 9 September @ 6:30pm

Northern Suburbs Speakers Club 2230
Odin Tavern, 51 Erindale Road (corner
Delawney Street), **Balcatta**

Order your own meal from the bar

Competitors:

Aaron Ashcroft – Club 14
Carol Corney – Club 19
Kyle Saltmarsh – Club 19
Tristan Seymour – Club 5
Victoria Shaw – Club 19
Andrew Syme – Club 4/8

Contact: Dave Rainey

drain50@optusnet.com.au

Heat 2

Tuesday 10 September @ 6:30pm

Swan Valley Speakers Club 39
Ascension Parish Hall, Spring Park Road,
Midland

Light meal and venue cost: \$10

Competitors:

Peter Humphries – Club 4/8
Priscilla Nguyen – Club 1
Denise Price – Club 34
Roy Sainsbury – Club 50
Jan Teasdale – Club 15
Arash Zargham – Club 19

Contact: Trevor Streeton

trevorstreeton@optusnet.com.au

Heat 3

Wednesday 11 September @ 5:30pm

Eastenders Speaking Club 4/8
Meeting Room, Canteen Complex,
Health Department, Hill Street, **East Perth**

Light meal and venue cost: \$10

Competitors:

Michael Brown – Club 19
Michael Hilton – Club 50
Stan Maley – Club 14
Jean-Marc Papineau – Club 5
Mary Rice – Club 39
Ben Riley – Club 34

Contact: Jared Jaworski –

jared.jaworski@hotmail.com

Heat 4

Thursday 12 September @ 6:30pm

Wembley Speakers Club 34
Perry Lakes Room, Cambridge Library,
99 The Boulevard, Floreat Forum, **Floreat**

Pizza and venue cost: \$5

Competitors:

Jean Jolley – Club 2230
Mathew Lane – Club 19
Daniel Pirrottina – Club 14
Derek Sparkes – Club 1
Greg Swensen – Club 19

Contact: Frank Marshall

drshaw2@amnet.net.au

Come and support your club's competitors!

New Members

New Member Applications

by Mary Rice (Club 39)

There is now no need for a prospective new member to complete a paper copy of 'Application for Membership'. The new member can join their club of choice by using the shortcut:

<https://rostrumclubsofwa.wildapricot.org/join>



Alternatively, your Club Secretary can advise the Rostrum Information Centre Secretariat (Mary Rice) by email on ric@rostrumwa.com.au about the prospective member and she will issue an invoice directly to this person. The new member can then enter their contact details and elect to pay safely and securely by PayPal or credit card.

The Importance and Value of New Members in Clubs

by Jared Jaworski (Club 4+8)

Rostrum Eastenders (Club 4+8) this week inducted new member **Shruti Hindocha** into their club. Shruti has joined Rostrum along with her sister Khyati Hindocha who is a member at Club 1. Shruti is originally from Zanzibar and moved to Perth for university studies. Her first speech "About me" revealed an amazing story how Shruti was home schooled by her parents. Members of Rostrum Eastenders were amazed to learn about her dedication and hard work which were paid off, with her gaining a place to study Mechanical Engineering at Curtin University. She graduated after 4 years and now works at Subseas Engineering in Perth.

It is also great to see Rostrum attracting new members as it continues implementation of its reinvention program aimed at bringing in a new wave of youth into WA Rostrum clubs. With the experienced members at Rostrum Eastenders along with its new members from a younger generation, the club has significant diversity in its membership base, making the club very dynamic. There is never a dull moment at Rostrum Eastenders on a Wednesday night.



We hope Shruti along with all new members that have joined Rostrum recently reap the great rewards of joining Rostrum in further developing confidence, leadership skills, communication skills and long lasting friendships.

Administrative matters

Compendium and Name Badge Prices

by Mary Rice (Club 39)



The introductory price of \$10 for the Launchpad Speaking Program Compendium has now passed. Although they are valued at over \$35, it has been decided that current Rostrum Clubs of WA members can purchase a compendium for **\$25** only.

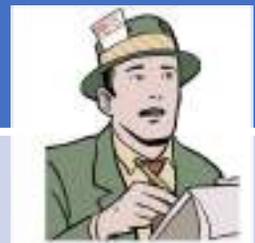
A new name-badge with the current Rostrum Clubs of WA logo can be ordered for **\$15**. Both the compendium and name-badge can be ordered through the Rostrum Information Centre (RIC) ric@rostrumwa.com.au

New members are provided with a compendium and name badge as part of their \$100 Joining Fee.



Would you like to contribute to The Informer?

by Ben Riley (Club 34)



We're always keen to receive new and exciting content for *The Informer*. *The Informer* is the official newsletter of Rostrum Clubs of WA.

Interesting public speaking articles or meeting procedure-related stories are always welcome and a great way to enhance the fellowship of the Rostrum Clubs of WA organisation. Also, if there's anything you'd like to know regarding fees, the program or events please let us know.

Please send your article or query to Ben Riley by email to benariley@me.com and we will try and include it in the next edition *The Informer*.