



July
2017

WORD

Rostrum SA Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

I am back from my 6 week overseas trip to Europe but all good things must come to an end. I saw some great places and had wonderful cultural experiences but I am glad to be back in Australia – except for the cold! I thank Vice President Gill Harvie for looking after the zone in my absence.

Voice of Youth - 2017

This is the major community event that we undertake each year. A large percentage of our members get involved and are rewarded by hearing some of the most talented young speakers in the state with something to say. I was not able to attend the Final but I believe those Rostrum members who attended were in awe of this year's speakers. (Refer separate report). One of the perks of being Zone President is that I will be able to see and hear the SA representatives in the National Voice of Youth Final in Brisbane at the end of July. I wish both Holly and Zaina well. Thanks again to Einer Herringe and his organising team and all the volunteers who have made this great event possible.



Australian Rostrum Council

I will be attending the ARC conference which is to be held in Brisbane on the 28th and 29th of July to coincide with the National VOY Finals. The National Sidney Wicks public speaking competition will now be held on the evening of Saturday 29th July as part of the Queensland Anniversary Dinner. Sam Drummond, who is a dual winner of Speaker of the Year, will represent SA in this prestigious competition and I am sure you join with me in wishing him well.

Speaker of the Year

Application forms for this year's event are now available and the speech topics have been announced. Refer to separate article for details of how to enter. For several years, the number of entrants for this great competition has been disappointing. At the Anniversary Lunch I used the analogy of my bowling club singles championship. Each year about half of the 140 members enter the club singles championship no matter what their standard. They do it to test their ability against the best, to see how far they can go in the competition, and to get valuable experience which will help them in the future. I believe the same attitude should prevail in the Speaker of the Year competition. There are a lot of great speakers out there, so give it a go! It is a great experience and a wonderful honour for the winner (and some great cash prizes for all the finalists). If you do decide not to enter, or do not reach the final, make sure you come along to support the speakers in the heats on 2nd September and the Final on 15th October. I look forward to seeing you there.

“When we make the effort to attend our club, we learn so much”

Clubs

I trust your club is going well. When it is cold and wet outside, I know it can be tempting to stay by the fire, but we have the warmth of Rostrum fellowship. When we make the effort to attend our Rostrum Club, we learn so much from preparing, delivering and listening to speeches and our communication skills will continue to grow.

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR YOUR CALENDAR

AUGUST 11TH	Speaker of the Year applications close
SEPTEMBER 2ND	Speaker of the Year Preliminary round
OCTOBER 15TH	Speaker of the Year Grand Final
NOVEMBER 9TH	Albert Apponyi Impromptu Speaking Competition

EDITOR'S LETTER



“The more we do, the more we have to talk about in our speeches.”

We are moving into the “pointy-end” of the Rostrum calendar. This is the time of year when we have **Speaker of the Year**, and the **Albert Apponyi** competitions. These are, foremost, a chance to show-case some of the best speakers in Rostrum. But they are also excellent opportunities for learning, networking and fellowship, for the wider Rostrum community. I urge all members to make the effort to attend, if not participate in, at least one of these events.

On the 24th June I attended the **TEDxAdelaide Theme Launch**. The theme this year will be **ZOOM OUT**, with a focus on Adelaide and its future. If you are interested in submitting a talk for this year's event, then check out the [submission page](#) here.

I wrote an article in the last edition about **Pecha-Kucha**. Some of you would have been rightly horrified at the assertion that this required 20 slides in 20 seconds. This was, you'll be relieved to know, a typo. It should be have been “20 slides FOR 20 seconds each”. On August 10th, SALA will be hosting a Pecha-Kucha night at Nexus Arts at 7pm, and entry is just a gold-coin donation. This is a great opportunity to check out a particular frame-work for presentations, and to pick up some ideas.

Despite the gothic weather, I hope you are all getting out and participating in Rostrum, and the wider community, as much as you can. The more we do, the more we have to talk about in our speeches.

See you at Speaker of the Year!

Tracey Korsten Editor

In the last newsletter, we published an article about two, new members of Club 26. The photos got lost in transmission somewhere along the line, and so here they are:



Lynton Graetz and Michael Esposito were recently inducted by the Club's President, Dennis Walsh

CLUB 26/UNISA WORKSHOP

A number of Rostrum Club 26 members recently conducted a highly successful 90-minute Workshop on 'Public Speaking Tips and Techniques' to University of South Australia students at their City West campus. The workshop was very interactive and attracted 26 participants. **Helen Bowen, Margaret Davidson** and **Dennis Walsh** ran through a range of tips to improve people's approach to public speaking and took the opportunity to promote Rostrum Club 26 and Rostrum more generally. Two UniSA students who recently joined Rostrum Club 26, **Bonnie Qian** and **James Avellanoza**, and who attended a previous Rostrum Club 26 workshop, spoke at this second workshop about why they joined the Club and the benefits and opportunities it provides to Club members. The workshop was a great opportunity to promote the Club and Rostrum and hopefully will generate interest amongst UniSA students. Anyone interested in finding out more about this initiative can contact Rostrum Club 26's Membership and Promotions Manager, Bob Pearce, on robert.pearce8@gmail.com



SPEAKER OF THE YEAR

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 11TH AUGUST SO DON'T FORGET TO ENTER!!

Each speaker will deliver a 10 minute prepared speech on one of the topics below, and after a short break will deliver a 3 minute short notice speech with 15 minutes preparation time.

The prepared speech titles

1. Speak to Me
2. What keeps me awake?
3. Find the Balance
4. Humour is a Serious Business
5. How Did we Get Here?
6. Life Matters

Qualifying finals:

Saturday 2nd September 2017, Knightsbridge Baptist Church, 455 Glynburn Rd, Leabrook.

Final:

Sunday 15th October 2017, Hackney Hotel, 95 Hackney Road, Hackney

Prize Money

The six finalists each receive \$250 with the winner receiving an additional \$750.

Entry forms are available from your club secretary, and are to be lodged by email to Barry Dixon at dixonbsi@optusnet.com.au
All enquiries should be directed to Barry at 08 8289 2465 (H) or 0406 718 693 (M)

Test yourself against the best in Rostrum's premier public speaking competition

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH



On 9th July nearly 80 Rostrum members and guests headed down to the Glenelg Golf Club for our Anniversary Lunch. As was the case last year, both the food and venue were superb. I was delighted to be able to introduce our guests Lynne Hansen, President of the SA Penguin Club and Cathie Graham, a member of The Penguin Club Executive Committee.

Fmn Heather Layton was our wonderful MC. She referred us to a quotation from former US Vice President Alben W Barkley (1949-53) who once said *"The best audience is intelligent, well educated and a little drunk"*. I like to think that we had at least two of those attributes covered – the question is: which two?

Toast to Rostrum

The toast to Rostrum was performed by Meshal Althobaiti, an immigrant from Saudi Arabia, who acknowledged the assistance of Rostrum in developing his English speaking skills and obtaining his law degree. The response was given by accomplished author Cameron Raynes who thanked Rostrum for helping him to control his own communication difficulties.

Command Performance

We were then entertained with three diverse speeches from invited Rostrum members which we often refer to as Command Performers. Fmn Roger Stanning took the opportunity in his wife's absence overseas on holiday (I told you it would get back Roger) to tell us of his first childhood romance which ended so tragically, at least to Roger, when his family emigrated to Australia when he was just 16. Jessica Byrne, who also performs as a stand up comedian, told us all about the "F", "C" and "Sh" words but fortunately not the ones usually heard on the comedy stage. Jessica's words were very Friendly and Complimentary, and Showed how Rostrum, its coaches and mentors have helped her in her relatively short 18 months in Rostrum.

Margaret Davidson then challenged us to think about the words of our national Anthem "Advance Australia Fair". She asked us if they related to all Australians and even if they were actually true. She gave us an alternative version of the lyrics written by Judith Durham, of Seekers fame, and we then listened to a recording of this. Definitely food for thought.

Awards

Fmn Roger and Fmn Helen Bills were awarded Premier's Certificates for Volunteering for their tireless work for the last eight years in coordinating the Voice of Youth competition in SA/NT Zone.

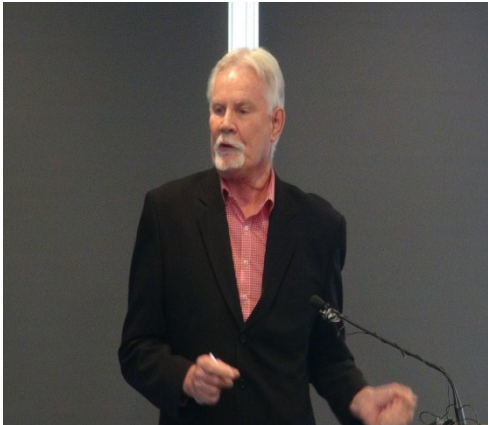
It was announced that two Rostrum Bronze medals were to be awarded to Rostrum members. As these members were not in attendance, they will be awarded at a future club meeting. I have since had the pleasure of awarding one of these medals to Marion Mitchell for outstanding service to Club 1. Her application by her peers listed Marion's extensive achievements and highlighted that it was "her submission to the discipline of the club that marks her membership." I congratulate you Marion on being a shining example of a Rostrum member.

The beautiful bell that is the Allan Crook Award is given to the best club in the SA/NT Zone for the previous 12 month period. This award was once given to the club with the best attendance record, but is now awarded to the club whose members' best use their Rostrum skills at both club and zone level and also in the wider community. I had the great pleasure in awarding the 2017 award to Club 7. Club 7, although one of our oldest clubs, has never previously won the award. I congratulate Club President Peter Carratt and his team for reinvigorating the club. Past President John Pezy and Secretary Robert Cunningham accepted the award on behalf of Club 7. Fmn Paul Wilkins, Chair of Coaches' Council, and Rebecca Goode, the daughter of the late David Higbed announced that the winner of the David Higbed award for the most improved coach was Steve McClure.

A big thank you to all those who made the event such a success, our MC Heather Layton, our five brilliant speakers, Fmn Barry Dixon for the sound and video, and our humble "banner hanger" Fmn Malcolm Hill. A special thank you to my fellow coordinating team members Shirley Reed and Graham Hagger who did most of the work while I was away sunning myself in the Mediterranean.

Rod Ellis
Zone President

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH PHOTOS



ANNIVERSARY LUNCH PHOTOS



VOICE OF YOUTH STATE FINAL

Voice of Youth is over for the year; and what a very successful journey it has been.

The new team with the guidance of the old team, can be proud of the event for this transitional year.

Heather Layton, as Student Coordinator, provided all the information to the schools, took entries and allocated students to the Heats and Semi-Finals. At the Heats, she registered the students as they arrived and made sure the students were at the right place at the right time. **Alan Strickland** looked after the kits, certificates and prizes. As we had ten heats Alan had to compile 60 kits on that day alone, making sure the correct information was inserted in each folder. A big job. **Brenda McKenzie**, as Treasurer collected and on many occasions had to follow up, schools' payments of the entry fees. Brenda also collected Sponsorship money – a very important part of the funding for VOY each year. **Einer Herringe**, as Coordinator, organised the venues and Rostrum volunteers and took our two winners to Brisbane as the official chaperone. **Helen and Roger Bills** played a supporting role through the whole year, which was critical. They very willingly guided us through each stage of the process and were often hands-on as well. **Peter Martindale and Club 9 members** travelled to Mount Gambier to run the competition down there. Many thanks to them. **Malcolm Hill** set up rooms for the heats at Immanuel College and more importantly liaised with the security staff at Parliament House. **Barry Dixon**, as always, took responsibility for the videoing at the Zone Finals. We continue to be grateful to our sponsors and have individually written to each to express our gratitude. Finally, I thank all **Rostrum helpers** who gave up their time to run Heats, Semi-Finals and Zone Finals. Obviously, without them there would be no VOY competition. I hope they will come back again next year.

STATISTICS:

VOY material was sent to 255 schools, with 30 schools participating.

75 Junior entrants and 68 Senior: a total of 143 entrants, including two from Darwin who competed via Skype.

53 Rostrum members assisted in the Heats, Semi-Finals and Zone Finals, many more than once.



THE STATE FINALISTS



HOLDING THE MACE



JUNIOR WINNER HOLLY WALLMAN-CRADDOCK



SENIOR WINNER ZAINA KHAN

ALBERT APPONYI COMPETITION

The Albert Apponyi Impromptu Speaking Contest hosted by the Freemans Council

This year the contest will be held on

Thursday, 9 November, 2017 at 6 pm.

We will gather under the Red and White pergola in the grounds of the Annesley Junior School, 28 Rose Terrace, Wayville.

By 6:00 pm there should be parking spaces on Rose Tce. Do not try to gain access from Greenhill Road because it will all be locked. Please use the only unlocked gate at 28 Rose Tce. The closest public transport is the Glenelg Tram Stop 1. It is a five minute walk—even for me. If you leave your car in the city we will try to arrange a lift back into town. We have arranged access to a toilet block and power. We have arranged access to a building if it is very wet. We hope to finish before the sun sets at about 8:00 pm. There will be tea, coffee and nibbles.

Further enquiries to Hartley Hyde home phone 8358 2158

THERE'S NO STOPPING SOME PEOPLE...WITH A LITTLE HELP!



Phyl, one of our members in Club 9 came a cropper and broke her hip. Because she doesn't do things in half measures, the next day she chipped the bone on the other side. This means she couldn't come to the Rostrum meetings, which she loved. She looked forward to Tuesdays, and rising to her Rostrum Audience, because after all, she has been on the stage since she was five years old, as a snowflake.

She admits, keeping to time in giving her speeches is a bit of a problem, and she has been known to tell the time-keeper to 'pipe down, I haven't finished yet'.

Well at 95 sometimes it takes a little longer to get up on your pins again, and for the first time in the history of Club 9, with a little help from an iPhone, a computer and an overhead projector, and another good friend also with an iPhone at Phyl's place in Parkside, they rigged up a video connection which saw Phyl on the big screen. Rostrum brought their meeting to her.

She had practised her speech, as all good speakers do, but didn't need notes after all. She said that in all her stage career she wasn't anxious, but with this new technology "I was a bloody bag of nerves." ... but you couldn't tell anyway. She saw all of the members in the room from her end, and had to check that her hair was nice, and that her lippy was still on straight. She is now practising for her next videoconference, and who knows, one of these days she could be competing in the Speaker of the Year, through the lens of a computer – a new-fangled thing that wasn't around in her younger days.

This opens possibilities for other Rostrum clubs that may be able to hook up to members who are unable to come to meetings because of distance or time restrictions. Watch this space!