



Publication 30th June 2017
 Rostrum's national publication
 Series 2 Volume 4 (ISSN 2207-7448)

Rostrum Taking Action



Fmn David Matters
President, Australian Rostrum

Rostrum Clubs and members are the focus



Inside this issue:

ARC Conference Details	2
NSW Rostrum Managing Change	3
Rostrum Club 31 Cairns Training & Public Relations	4
RVOY & WA	5
The Angophora Tree uniting Rostrum Australia	6
Rostrum Club 10 remembers Queensland's 80 years	7
Representatives	8

Everyone has different needs and expectations but my Rostrum will welcome them all.

Australian Rostrum Council Conference
28, 29 July 2017
Seek the Open ARC Session on the 28th July for Rostrum members.

Perhaps visit Rostrum Club 3 at Ithaca Hall, Red Hill on Thursday evening (7pm 27th July)

From the President

The Rewards

Coaching and mentoring speakers is a rewarding activity. I love that role and it gives me much satisfaction in my Rostrum life. Of course I am the first to admit that I can, and do, learn a lot from other coaches and expect the same level of attention to my speeches as they give newer speakers. I groan when a coach says, "David you're an experienced speaker – I can't find anything to criticise". That's a cop-out because all of us can learn new techniques and hear about improvements to our performance.

The most rewarding feeling I get is when I watch a nervous speaker blossoming and developing his or her skills and gaining confidence. **Rostrum** doesn't really teach public speaking - **we guide the personal development of people and their life-skills, via their confidence as communicators.**

I see nervous speakers gaining that confidence every day. One of the long term members of my club reminded us today that when she started in Rostrum she was very hesitant and uncomfortable speaking in the Club. After joining our club she was asked to address an audience of 300 people for a work-related presentation and at first rejected the invitation. However, her inner-voice said, "just prepare and perform as you've learned in Rostrum". So she **took up the challenge and succeeded beyond her expectations.** Sometimes these moments can be life-changing.

In my early coaching days we were conducting a Rostrum community speaking course in Narrandera NSW. I met a very reticent nurse who seldom spoke up, even to our breakout group. Each of the five in my group was invited to give a three-minute speech on motor-racing. The first four were courageous but not inspiring. The nurse, the last of the twenty students in the room, refused. She whispered to me, "I hate motor racing".

So I suggested that she get angry about the topic and tell the audience how much she hated racing. Of course, she amazed and shocked the audience with her vitriol and whispered to me afterwards; "I enjoyed doing that. Can I do another, please?"

These inspirational events occur in every Rostrum club. But it's the transforming moment when someone says "I can do this", in what we know is often regarded as a frightening activity; public speaking. And this is also a reason to get new speakers on their feet as soon as possible. **Participation** in our meetings is critical to delivering our Rostrum "product". **If you cannot get the visitor to be involved, you will likely lose that visitor as a future member.**

Getting back to my first point of coaching, reminds us that **Rostrum is an educational organisation** – we coach people, we mentor people, we criticise very gently, we encourage, we speak frankly and most of all we sincerely recognise the effort and achievements of others. **These are the traits of our best coaches.**

Finally, we must recognise that we live in the "fast food" era, where people expect to get what they want, quickly, and leave when they are finished. I've met a number of people who joined Rostrum to achieve a specific goal in their life or career and then left after 6 months. Some people have English as a second language, some people get a new job for which they will need better communications and some members I know have speech impediments.

But we recognise that those who stay in Rostrum for longer get the greater benefits of membership, through practice.

Everyone has different needs and expectations but my Rostrum will welcome them all.

ARC Conference 28, 29th July 2017—Brisbane Queensland

THURSDAY 27th JULY **Why not attend Rostrum Club 3** — Ithaca Hall, Red Hill 6.30pm for 7pm start, finish at 8.30pm
qldclub3@rostrum.com.au

FRIDAY 28th JULY **ARC OPEN WORKSHOP SESSIONS**—Brisbane International Hotel Windsor (Members see below)

SATURDAY 29th JULY **ARC MEETING**—Brisbane International Hotel Windsor — Rostrum Zone Presidents
National RVOY FINAL — 1.00pm , Marist College Ashgrove, all invited

80th ANNIVERSARY DINNER and Sidney Wicks Final Tattersall's Club City (Dinner payment required in advance — qldsecretary@rostrum.com.au)

ARC Open Session — Friday — 28th July 2017

Rostrum Members invited — there is time to discuss these ideas in your Club

Suggested Workshop Sessions / Author: David Matters / Version: 1/ Date of Document: 26/06/2017

Event: Australian Rostrum Council Conference 2017 in Brisbane

Date of Workshops: Friday 28th July 2017

Morning Session 1: Focus on Education

Tutorial Content in Rostrum Meetings and Meeting Variety

What do your members want?

Who delivers education in your club?

Materials and handouts

What works on the agenda and what does not

Chairmanship in the 21st Century

New ideas that work well for your club

Using technology for the club

Morning Session 2: Focus on Visitors

Retention

Follow-up and contact; keeping data

Do we ask them what they want from Rostrum?

Where do your visitors come from and how do they discover the club?

What reasons do your visitors give for their visits?

Who are they?

Afternoon Session 1: Focus on the Failing Clubs

Action Planning

Can your Freemen help? How?

Why did the club decline?

Is it worth saving that club?

How do we turn-around clubs-in-decline?

Afternoon Session 2: Focus on Coaching Standards and Techniques

Quality of Service

Training roles and frequency

Re-accreditation of coaches

Can we deliver training remotely?

What innovations have we tried?

Are our standards of coaching being reviewed and improved?

Is what we teach still appropriate for younger speakers?

Rostrum NSW Dais – leaders managing Rostrum change



Over the past year, NSW Dais has successfully implemented a number of innovative development projects and is committed to continuing its *change agenda* in the months and years ahead.

In May 2016, NSW Dais undertook a rigorous self-examination of its approach towards shaping the future directions of Rostrum NSW. Two basic options were considered:

A “Business as usual” Model – Continuing to do what we had been doing and optimistically hoping that Rostrum’s successful past would be replicated in the future. Dais decided that defending the status quo would not underwrite a brighter, better, flourishing Rostrum movement of the future.

An “Organisational Change” Model - Given the risk of possible organisational stagnation, coupled with a range of other challenges that were facing Rostrum NSW, Dais agreed that it was time to move out of its comfort zone and pursue a *change-oriented agenda*.

The first step was to acknowledge the reality that Dais could not assume responsibility for growing the Local Clubs. Clubs have always had to stand on their own feet. But given the commitment, experience and talent assembled in Dais, it was agreed that Dais should add further real value to Clubs by funding and developing a suite of projects specifically designed to support the Clubs.

Rostrum NSW Dais members are: left to right are:

Edd Chadbourne, Peter Kelso, Peter Quartly, Helen Grimmett, Gary Newton, Penelope Phillips, Geoff Burgess

Apologies: Marc Ahrens, Stephen Roberts, Dino Economou, John Jordan, John Morrison

Cairns Rostrum Club 31—an innovator in Public Relations & Rostrum Training

From Rostrum Club 31 PR team (Fmn Karen Matheson, John Lizzio, Tony McDonagh)



The Training Team

Left John Lizzio, Vincent Kelly, Robert Crema, [right] Fmn. Karen Matheson (Tony McDonagh)



The successful participants with certificates



Rostrum training in action

CAIRNS ROSTRUM – PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE PHILOSOPHY AND FOCUS.

For the last 3 years since the **formation of the PR Committee** the philosophy and focus of Cairns City Rostrum Club No 31 has been ‘mission’.

We return to the aims and objectives of our founders.

Sidney Wick’s intention was to put public speaking skills out into the community.

In every age, we lovers and exponents of Public Speaking must find the best possible vehicle to continue Sidney’s Rostrum creation.

To that end Rostrum Club 31 is seeking to:-

- **Have a great weekly program.** Presented with enthusiasm, care and respect for the members and visitors.
- Inculcate in every member the **desire to spread Public Speaking in the community** by bringing one visitor every month, by encouraging people to participate in the ‘One day Public Speaking Course,’ by **welcoming with a sense of belonging** every visitor.
- **Assist in the Public Speaking growth of every member** by, honest, supportive, caring feedback which focuses on the ‘how’ of their presentation.

- **Recognise every member who completes their PDP** by the presentation of a magnificently framed and colourful A3 certificate which they would be proud to hang on their wall in a public place.
- **Regularly conduct One day Public Speaking Courses** that focus on Preparation, Practice, Feedback, the encouragement of the group through the ‘Encouragement Award’ and finally what only Rostrum can offer, **a weekly opportunity to speak in Public, learn from others and be part of an ongoing fellowship of the highest ideals.**
- Develop the realization that Public Speaking is not ‘Rocket Science’. Hence the **club provides ongoing training** that presents simple and yet invaluable processes that every member can relate to by using their own experiences, personality and store of stories.
- **Creation of a One day Public Speaking Course** that is fast moving, hands on, using small groups with excellent facilitators and learning by doing.
- In our last course of the 15 participants that graduated ,13 spoke 14 times, one 16 times and one 17 times. All are invited to make first Public Speech the following Tuesday at Rostrum Club 31.

IN CONCLUSION

The 40 page plus manual is not the course. The 15 power points are not the course The 20 A3 Public Speaking Tips around the wall are not the course

The participants, sharing their experiences, overcoming their fears, encouraging one another - they are the course.

Just as the members make up a Rostrum Club, with their many differences, making the difference.

So it is the **genuine sharing**, the unstinting respect and encouragement and support of the participants for one another, that is the course. And of course because of that, no two courses are the same.

As well, just as the Chairman creates the culture in a Rostrum meeting, the three presenters create the culture in the course.

Anyone interested in ‘experiencing’ what we are doing at Rostrum Club 31 is welcome to attend our next Public speaking Course.

Alternatively, with costs covered, the three presenters Karen, Tony and John, will come to you.

For more info, contact John Lizzio on 0416122082 and Rostrum Club 31 Secretary Tony McDonagh email mcdonaghanthony.001@iinet.net.au

National Rostrum Voice of Youth — Fmn Jenny Fraser

A thank you, and soon the national RVOY final

Rostrum Voice of Youth

Thank you to all Rostrum members who have been involved in the 2017 Rostrum Voice of Youth program around Australia.

A special thank you to the Zone Coordinators who have invested a huge amount of time and energy to give **1606 young people** the **opportunity to have their voices heard**.

The **Zone winners** are looking forward to the **National Final** which will be held at **1.00pm at Marist College Ashgrove in Brisbane on Saturday July 29th**.

Meg Olsson, the National Final Convenor and her team have planned a range of social activities for the students from climbing the Story Bridge, to the challenge of escaping Fort Locks and a Scavenger Hunt around the Southbank precinct.

At the Brisbane RVOY Coordinator’s Meeting, the Code of Conduct and the revision to the national RVOY Manual will be discussed.

Within the zones, Rostrum members are encouraged to seek ways that they can capitalise on the very successful RVOY program.

What can your club do to encourage the students and supporters to visit your Rostrum Club?

Jenny Fraser

(2017 National RVOY Coordinator)

Action in Rostrum WA— Fmn Sue Hart President

Interaction and friendship between clubs is WA Rostrum

In WA we like to make an event of finding our nominee for the Sidney Wicks Competition. We have conducted a competition between Clubs.

We believe this is a great way to enthuse people about improving their speaking. Entering a speaking competition, whether at club, interclub, state or national level, takes your skills to the next level, win or lose.

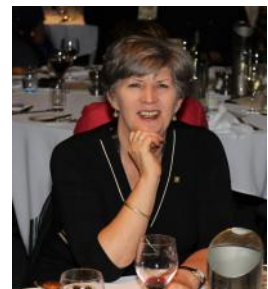
The competition has other benefits.

Interaction and friendship between clubs is a large part of Rostrum in WA and the Sidney Wicks is a perfect opportunity to further strengthen those links.

Heats for the competition were held within clubs, providing a chance for clubs to hone their skills in organisation and hosting.

Meanwhile, we will continue to work at **improving numbers**, mainly through our **website and social media**.

We also make sure club meetings offer both a meaningful learning experience and a friendly, sociable atmosphere.



Freeman Sue Hart
President Rostrum WA

Round the Rostrum — Qld Dais — July 1976

(J.T. Pearce Editor)

Queensland President Ray Richardson asked Club Presidents a series of questions seeking help to make the Freeman’s Council an effective body in Queensland. Ray wanted to know **‘how can the experience and skills of our Freemen be used to help solve some of Rostrum’s problems?’**

Editor John added, **let’s help our President and Freemen to help make Rostrum even better than what it is.**

Extract from The Rostrum , national magazine June 1992

A speech is like a love affair.

Any fool can start it, to end it requires considerable skill.

The Angophora Tree — A symbol uniting Rostrum Australia

The **Angophora Tree** is native to Sydney NSW, yet can be used in Ayr, North Queensland, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Adelaide to **demonstrate enthusiasm for Rostrum**.

We can choose to be proud of our Rostrum history. Many Rostrum clubs need to be regrown, like the many Angophora Trees that are replanted to remember Rostrum.

Our Rostrum founders fertilised the clubs on enthusiasm, fellowship and a focus on members. In Queensland, Rostrum Clubs 5 and 6 are currently being replanted in our 80th year.

Just as we understand that regional native species are a response to regional climate and location, our **Regional Rostrum Zones have developed their own Rostrum brand.**

However, like collecting regional species to populate an Arboretum, **we can seek to combine each Rostrum Zone’s talents to build a stronger Australian Rostrum.**



Sydney Domain NSW

This tree was planted in 1980 by the Rostrum Clubs of NSW during Australian Rostrum Jubilee Celebrations. A replacement plaque marks Australian Rostrum’s 75th anniversary of Rostrum in Australia. This is one of two trees in Sydney, another at Middle Harbour.

Queensland Newstead Park, Brisbane

Current tree replanted in 2014 thanks to Anna West and Fmn Bill Smith of Club 3.

Original tree planted by Rostrum Members and Club 1 Foundation Member Sir Theodore Bray, accompanied by Mrs C F Willers, wife of Charlie Willers, Club 1 Foundation President. Park on 10 August 1975.

AYR North Queensland

Fmn Stan Simpson advised they have planted three trees over the years. They find it difficult to survive in the North. But Stan has kept Club 18 alive to welcome others to find their voice.

Cooroy Queensland

Merv Elliott’s Presidential update in 2005 mentioned John Dean having planted an Angophora Tree in John’s backyard with due ceremony on 2nd October 2005. John was an excellent tutor of Critic accreditation courses in the 1980s. John was also co-founder of the AIM Speakers Club and wrote “effective Speaking—here’s how”.

VICTORIA Jell’s Park, Glen Waverley,

Planted in 1984, to commemorate Rostrum Victoria’s golden jubilee. The plaque contained the words “**I promise not to be silent when I ought to speak**”. Victorian members gathered also in 1995 and 2009.



KINGS PARK PERTH WA

TASMANIA

The Wynyard tree was planted in 1980 as a tribute to 50 years of Rostrum, and as a symbol of the first meeting of Rostrum in Australia in 1930 which was held under the shade of an angophora tree near Government House, Sydney.



Victor Harbour Adelaide SA



Gold Coast 1985

Gold Coast City Council Chambers, Bundall Road, Bundall, Queensland Rostrum Gold Coast Convention
Alan Syle (President Club 27), Geo Shaw (Qld Rostrum State President), Keith Hunter (Club 27)

Rostrum Club 10—finding its voice — remembers Queensland’s 80 years



On the 18th of May 2017, Club 10 held a special club meeting where the program of the day was dedicated to acknowledging the 80th anniversary of Rostrum.

Members from Rostrum Clubs 10, 15 and 3 were present.

The club welcomed guests Genny Smith, Fmn Bill Smith and Fmn Maurice Whybrow to join the reflections.

Freeman Bill Smith (Club 3) spoke with fond memories of the history of Rostrum in Queensland over the past 80 years complete with memorabilia. Bill is updating Rostrum history.

Freeman Merv Green (Club 10) regaled the audience with anecdotes of the history of club 10 in particular highlighting the strong connection between clubs 10 and 3, which is still shared today.

To connect the threads of the past with the present, the **newer member Ellen Appelgren** spoke on her personal experiences of present-day Rostrum.

Through the remarks of all members of the club, it was clear to see that Rostrum has provided tremendous opportunities for growth and fellowship over the past 80 years, and will continue to do so into the future. Here’s to the next 80 years.

Club 10 has two new members, young and keen (Ellen Appelgren and Daniel Kimera.)

By Speaker Ellen Appelgren, new Rostrum Club 10 member (left front)

Back Row Rosalie Roberts (3), Sing Burton (10), Fmn Maurice Whybrow (3), Fmn Paul Halliday (3), Keith Greenwood (President 10), Fmn Merv Green (10)

Front Row Ellen Appelgren (10), Fmn Geoff Read (10), Fmn Bill Smith (3), Genny Smith, Fmn Bernie Ketter (15) (apology Peter Barlow, Rick Harrison, Daniel Kimera, Fmn Doug Fergusson)



Queensland Rostrum Club 10 Demonstration by Rick Harrison Making Candy Easter Eggs

Rick Harrison gave a demonstration on making candy Easter Eggs and shared one with Club 10 members. **Rick is one of three Senior Critics in Club 10.**

The **demonstration idea** was one of many in a new program introduced to Rostrum by Fmn David Price of WA Rostrum. His ideas are transforming Rostrum Clubs 3 and 10 in Queensland. Rick made the timber moulds and with his family makes 50 candy eggs to share each Easter.

Club 10 team regrowth is being supported by several Club 3 members and five Freeman. These Rostrum members are Rosalie Roberts (3) and David Thomson (3) and Fmn Geoff Read (10), Fmn Merv Green (10), Fmn Doug Fergusson (15), Fmn Bernie Ketter (15) and Fmn Paul Halliday (3).

Peter Bolam (10) is bringing a new program invigorating Club 10. **Rick Harrison (10), Senior Critic** and **Keith Greenwood as President** breath new life into Club 10 members.

Club 10 Member Robert Cooper gets Community AWARD

(presented by local MHR
Anthony Lynham).



Rostrum in Australia since
21 July, 1930



Australian Rostrum

National President president@rostrum.com.au
National Secretary secretary@rostrum.com.au
National Treasurer treasurer@rostrum.com.au

As Rostrum spread throughout Australia, State or Zone Councils were formed to support clubs and provide uniformity in standards and procedures.

The Presidents of these Zone Councils together serve on the Australian Rostrum Council.

Collectively they serve Rostrum.

**See you on the web —
www.rostrum.com.au**

Australian Rostrum Council (ARC) - 2017

ARC meets once a year face to face and each two months over the internet.

President Fmn. David Matters NSW
Secretary Fmn Ross Hayes
Treasurer Fmn. Greg McKay
Webmaster Fmn. Jenny Blain Vic
Rostrum Voice of Youth Coordinator Fmn. Jenny Fraser Tasmania

National Publications Officer Fmn. Robert Bicknell Vic

Marketing Director

Training Officer Fmn. Murray Mason Vic.

Public Officer Fmn. Dennis Walsh SA

Archives Officer Fmn David Matters NSW

Australian Zone Presidents

ACT Spr. Phil Beeley
NSW Fmn. Edwin Chadbourne
Queensland Fmn. Ian Olsson
SA / NT Fmn. Rod Ellis
Tas. Fmn. Rod Fraser
Victoria Fmn. John Blain
WA Fmn. Sue Hart

www.rostrum.com.au

Rostrum Taking ACTION Editor — Fmn Paul Halliday

Thanks to all contributors.

Rostrum camaraderie provides for the future Rostrum member.

It is simply the friendship and bond between Rostrum members working to achieve a goal.

Eighty years ago in Queensland, our Rostrum leaders built Rostrum foundations on fellowship, consultation through a Dais, encouraging the ability of Rostrum members to speak and a focus on Rostrum members.

Past members left Rostrum for us to find our voice.

Our focus in the **August 2017 Edition** is bring to all Rostrum members the **longer term strategies and approach of our national leaders.**

The national magazine seeks to report on the July 2017 ARC Meeting in Brisbane, particularly the open sessions and the camaraderie and competition of national finals for the RVOY and Sidney Wicks Finals.

Rostrum Taking ACTION Editor—Fmn Paul Halliday
Queensland Rostrum Club 3, 0417755631
newsletter@rostrum.com.au

Deadline next Edition is 10th August 2017

Seeking your ideas on sharing Rostrum —reaching out to help people find their voice

