



ROSTRUM

INFORMER

February 2017

Newsletter of Rostrum Western Australia

www.rostrumwa.com.au

Sidney Wicks Competition

'... to say in fifty telling words what others try to say in five hundred weak ones ... to be interesting instead of dull ... to be shapers of decisions rather than mere performers on platforms ...'

Sidney F Wicks 1923

The Sidney Wicks National Speaking Competition, named after the founder of Rostrum in the UK, will be held over the coming months to select a speaker to represent WA in the final in Brisbane at the end of July.

The competition has been held six times since 1980, the year Rostrum celebrated 50 years in Australia, with different states taking it in turn to host the final.

WA has an enviable record of wins: Freeman David Mead (Club 15) was the inaugural winner of the Sidney Wicks trophy in 1980 and Freeman Bill Smith (Club 11) won it in 1988. The 1994 winner, Brian Gillespie, was a former Rostrum WA member (Club 49).

The competition will be run similarly to the Arthur Garvey Speaker of the Year Competition with heats and semi-finals leading up to the final in late May. All members are eligible and encouraged to enter the heats, details of which will be announced shortly. The winner of the final will win a trip to Brisbane and the honour of representing WA.



ARE YOU NEW TO ROSTRUM OR NEED A REFRESHER ON THE BASICS? THEN COME TO SUSO!

Speak up Speak out (SUSO) is a three hour short course designed to give new and prospective members an introduction to Rostrum and covers the basics of speech preparation and presentation in a friendly and supportive environment.

Date: Tuesday 14 March 2017

Time: 6.30pm to 9.30pm

Cost: FREE for Rostrum members and for this month bring a friend for FREE! This is a perfect opportunity to introduce your friends to Rostrum at no cost and no obligation.

Class size: 12 maximum

Venue: Wembley Community Centre, 40 Alexander Street Wembley

RSVP essential: by Tuesday 7 March 2017 to the Rostrum Information Centre ric@rostrumwa.com.au

Further details: email the Rostrum Information Centre at ric@rostrumwa.com.au or phone 0404 596 065 or contact the Director of Training on 0408 415 922.

**SAVE THE DATE!
TUESDAY 2 MAY 2017**

Club 15's



Details in the March Informer

DID YOU KNOW...?
Rostrum WA will be celebrating its
70th Anniversary in 2018.



From the President

No doubt all clubs are back in business and getting on with things. I will be coming to visit as many clubs as I can in the coming months and I look forward to meeting you. The Dais executive will have met a couple of times by the time you read this and are working hard in their various roles. The next Dais

meeting is Friday 24 February and anyone can attend, although only Dais representatives or their proxies can vote.

Remember the national Sidney Wicks speaking competition which is happening in the first half of the year; Club 19 has volunteered to run the competition in WA. The state final will be held in late May and the winner will receive a free trip to Brisbane to compete in the national final in late July. This is a great opportunity to improve your speaking skills, have fun and help to make Rostrum a more vibrant and interesting experience for everyone. Details will be circulated soon.

Clubs can contribute by offering to host heats of the competition which is a good learning experience in managing events, while everyone can take part by going along to the heats and supporting their club competitors.

Another event on the Rostrum calendar which we are promoting this year is the Voice of Youth competition, which has been running for years under the Rostrum umbrella, managed by Freeman Juliet Park, and which receives a financial contribution from us. However, the competition has received little other support from anyone in Rostrum apart from a couple of people who help with adjudication.

Although we aren't a service organisation I feel this is one area where we can use our skills and experience for the good of the community. There is also potential to spread the word of Rostrum to a wider audience. Even those who don't wish to adjudicate could attend the state final on Saturday 24 June. There will be more details closer to the date and it would be great if some Rostrum members were in the audience to back up the claims on the promotional material that this is a Rostrum event.

As ever, let's make sure Rostrum continues to prosper. Some clubs are doing a fantastic job in actively promoting themselves, and, most importantly offering lively and meaningful meetings. As I've said many times, we not only want to get people in the door but give them something that will make them want to stay. We can't get by on our history, or our older members, but by remaining relevant for everybody.

Freeman Sue Hart, President, Rostrum WA
suchart@iinet.net.au

Important Rostrum dates 2017

DAIS REPS MEETINGS

24 February
28 April
25 August
24 November

Clubs: please ensure your Dais Rep or a proxy attends each meeting.

DAIS EXEC MEETINGS

Third Thursday of every month

SPEAK UP SPEAK OUT SHORT COURSE

Second Tuesday of every second month (depending on demand)

CRITICS TRAINING COURSE

First one proposed for May

ROSTRUM VOICE OF YOUTH COMPETITION

Heats	9 April
Semi- finals	13 May
State final	24 June
National final	29 July (in Brisbane)

SIDNEY WICKS COMPETITION

State final in late May
National final in late July (in Brisbane)

ROSTRUM WA ANNUAL DINNER AND ARTHUR GARVEY SPEAKER OF THE YEAR FINAL

Saturday 18 November

Watch This Space

Attention all Rostrum and Meetup members and past members
Cambridge Speaking Club (Rostrum Club 34) will be holding its **2000th** meeting on Friday evening, 16 June 2017. We would love you to join us for an evening of Fun, Frolics and Fellowship. So please bookmark this date in your calendar, diary or organiser and watch this space for further details.

'No one ever seems to listen to what he says, and even after five minutes he gives the impression that, since he started speaking, amoebas have evolved into vertebrates, crawled out of the ocean, stood upright and invented the wheel and the atom bomb.'

Mungo Wentworth MacCallum
Australian political journalist and commentator (1941-)

Language at play

I should like to read or hear, just once, about tacks that aren't brass, questions that aren't moot, coasts that aren't clear, fates that aren't worse than death, and a mean that isn't golden.

And, just once, a null without a void, a might without a main, a far without a wide, a six of one without a half-dozen of the other, tooth without a nail, and ways without means.

And, just once, an unfit fiddle, a warm cucumber, a young hill, a stupid owl, a hard impeachment, a black elephant, a sage's paradise, feet of gold, the pepper of the earth, an unbloated plutocrat, and a sad Lothario.

And, just once, a social caterpillar, Father Nature, the orange of one's eye, an uncracked dawn, a picture of illness, ignorance after an event, a tower of weakness, an unsure slowness, a low dryness, and a lively earnestness.

And, just once, a fair without a square, a safe without a sound, a sackcloth without ashes, a wear without a tear, a fast without a loose, a rack without a ruin, a kill without a cure, a long without a short, and a storm without a port.

And, just once, a merciless errand, an ungrieved error, an unpsychological moment, a light horse, a live certainty, an indecisive effect, an embarrassment of poverty, an eternal quadrangle, an emaciated calf, and someone who has been frightened into his wits.

And, just once, a nail that isn't hit on the head, a feather that can't knock you down, a gift that doesn't come from the gods, a bad Samaritan, a delicate exaggeration, and a pin that doesn't drop.

And, just once, an ungilded lily, good dirty fun, tepid congratulations, a wagon hitched to a meteorite, something that costs an ugly penny, someone who is gone and forgotten, and someone who would go through fire but not through water.

And, just once, a hue without a cry, a hem without a haw, a hit without a miss, a hither without a yon, a head without a shoulders, a spick without a span, a hammer without a tongs, fish on a string or a net or a pan but not in a kettle, a prophet with honour, and purely without simply.

And, just once, sweet grapes, soft facts, an unpicked bone, a tempest in a coffeepot, a ducksong or a goosesong but not a swansong, a bull that is taken by the tail, and a rhinestone in the rough.

Sydney J Harris *A Pretty Kettle of Clichés*

Coming up in ...

FEBRUARY

24 Dais Reps Meeting

6.30 pm

Joan Watters/Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley

MARCH

14 Speak up Speak out Course

6.30 to 9.30 pm

Joan Watters/Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley

☺ RSVP required to Rostrum Information Centre

16 Dais Exec Meeting

6.30 pm

Joan Watters/Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley

23 Copy deadline for April *Informer*

Information and course

registration:

Rostrum Information Centre (RIC)

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Email ric@rostrumwa.com.au

Web www.rostrumwa.com.au

Facebook www.facebook.com/rostrumwa

Please send your contributions for the *Informer* to:
informer@rostrumwa.com.au

Rose Fogliani (Editor)

The BIGGEST Fibs

The cheque is in the mail
Of course I'll respect you in the morning
That's really interesting
I'll pay next time
My wife doesn't understand me
I'm giving up tomorrow
I just get that magazine for the articles
It's not the money, it's the principle
That looks really good on you
We'll get right back to you
She means nothing to me
I got held up by traffic
I never watch television except for the ABC
Lucky you came in – we only have two left in stock
Of course I knew it was your birthday

With thanks to Freeman Sue Hart