



ROSTRUM

INFORMER

March 2017

Newsletter of Rostrum Western Australia

www.rostrumwa.com.au



From the President

Freeman Derek Walker died on Friday 3 March after a long and fulfilling life. He was a fixture at Rostrum for many years and supported it in so many ways. I remember him as a fellow club member, a critic (as tutors were always called then) and a long-time organiser of the autumn conventions at Club Capricorn. His speeches

were always a delight – witty and whimsical and coming from a good heart and wide experience of the world. We will miss him.

Then the news came that Freeman Elvern Webb died less than a week after Derek, on Thursday 9 March. Elvern and his wife Carole met at Rostrum and were actually married during a Rostrum meeting – surely a first? They were both staunch supporters of Rostrum for many years and were regulars at autumn conventions and other functions. They retired to Mandurah some years ago and have not been active in the organisation for several years, but Freemanship is for life. Our sympathy to Carole.

Their passing is a reminder that Rostrum as an organisation is aging and it is more important than ever to attract new, young members so we have a mix of old and young to learn from each other and keep us relevant and vibrant.

Several clubs, including my own, Club 2230, are having considerable success attracting members through Meetup. Ideally every club would have a Meetup administrator – it's not an arduous task – and every member would also join up and indicate that they are attending meetings. It only takes a few clicks.

Elliott Chipper worked hard on this last year but found people to be rather apathetic. It's no good expecting that Rostrum will grow and prosper by magic – we all have to contribute and this is a relatively easy and effective method. More old-fashioned methods of advertising – local papers,

radio – have not been particularly cost-effective. Our website and social media are the way to go. I am going to work with our IT guru, Dom Lake (from the very dynamic Club 19) to put together a set of simple steps for everyone to follow.

Don't forget the Sidney Wicks speaking competition, the nation-wide competition with a free trip to Brisbane for the WA contestant. Thanks to us, the final is now on Friday 28 July, not Thursday 27 as it was going to be, which will hopefully make participation easier for everyone.

Enjoy your Rostrum!

Freeman Sue Hart, President, Rostrum WA
suehart@inet.net.au

Foothills Club 11's South of the River Speaking Competition

Wednesday 24 May

Attention Clubs 11, 15, 21, 50

The South of the River speaking competition for members who have been in Rostrum for less than four years is on again. The competition provides early experience in preparing and presenting a competition speech – and is good practice for the AGSOY.

More details in the April *Informer*

WANTED – A GUEST EDITOR

I'll be away for a couple of months and need someone to take on the Editor's role for the May and June issues of the *Informer*. The job involves writing and/or sourcing articles on public speaking and Rostrum matters and events, and assembling the newsletter. You can use the existing template or create your own. As a suggestion, two members working together could easily share the role, or produce one issue each. If you like to write and are interested, please let me know.

Rose Fogliani (Editor)
informer@rostrumwa.com.au

There's more than one way to... structure a speech

With the Rostrum air filled with speaking competitions over the coming months, it's timely to include some tips on competition speaking. The following article appeared in the *Informer* in October 2001, the result of a Training Council workshop in which three Rostrum speakers shared some of their secrets for speech construction.

Derek Sparkes (formerly Club 17, now Club 33)

He said he finds it easier to deal with one topic than to be presented with a choice, but whether one or many he considers the IMPACT on the audience.

I – Interest

M – Message (Motivational)

P – Powerful

A – Action (+Applause)

C – Clear and Concise

T – Technique

So – when choosing a topic, ask yourself which one will have the most impact. Always link the topic to the audience. Remember that personal stories can be boring to the audience. Have three main points – plus a beginning and an end.

Robyn Dear (formerly Club 34)

Robyn also chooses the topic that she thinks will have the most impact on an audience. She wants to leave a lasting message. Finding the main thread is the hardest part – once you have that, make a tapestry. Let the ideas percolate for a while and when you are ready – write it out. By then you should have a beginning and an end. These are most important but everything must connect.

Edit.

Leave it for a couple of days, then re-read it. Put it on tape, listen to it. Edit again. For a competition, listen to it over and over, perhaps in the car.

Greg Stewart (formerly Club 42)

Greg wants to know first if the topic impacts on himself because only if it does will it impact on the audience. He said a speech is a product. How do I sell it? He searches the internet for facts and inspiration – does a phrase search. The central idea comes as a lightning bolt. When first trying to come up with an idea he thinks of what other people are likely to do and then rules that out. Do something different. [The purpose of the speech is to] Inform. Entertain. Project. Motivate and Inspire.

A speech is a theatrical performance, not a recital. Greg likes to challenge himself. If he's telling a story that is just the basis of the speech, not the whole point. Look for a powerful opening. Deliver a message. The ending wraps it all up together.

One of the key messages coming through strongly from all three speakers was that they see a speech topic as a starting point, a platform from which to let their minds expand and wander, in order to find the right ideas and words to interest, amuse and inform their audience.

Coming up in ...

MARCH

- 16 **Dais Exec Meeting**
6.30 pm
Joan Watters/Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley
- 23 **Copy deadline for April *Informer***
- 24 **Bookings close for Club 15 Comedy Night**
Details on pages 4&5
- 31 **Closing date for Sidney Wicks entries**
Details on pages 7&8

APRIL

- 18 **Sidney Wicks heats begin**
- 20 **Dais Exec Meeting**
6.30 pm
Joan Watters/Wembley Community Centre
40 Alexander St, Wembley
- 21 **Copy deadline for May *Informer***

Information and course

registration:

Rostrum Information Centre (RIC)

PO Box 5547

Canning Vale South, WA 6155

Phone 08 9463 6433

Fax 08 9455 1215

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)

Ideate

To conceive or form an idea.

Think of something, figure out, solve, apprehend, comprehend, realise, grasp, twig, imagine, get a handle on.

To have the penny drop.

To be a little pretentious. As, 'I ideate, therefore I am' (Descartes).

'Collaboration within the business sphere – or what could be called the 'We' space as opposed to the 'Me' space – means taking the opportunity to engage and *ideate* with big thinkers, mentors, sponsors and leaders who can assist your journey upward.'

www.smh.com.au, April 2015

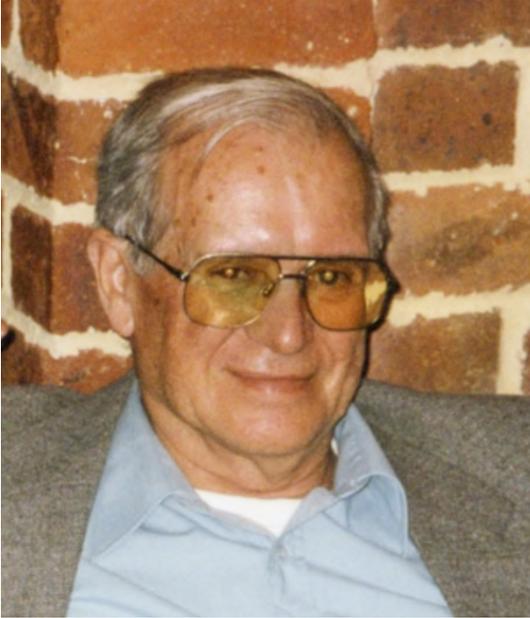
The *Ideator* by Rodin.

'When you *ideate* upon a star.'

Worst Words, Don Watson 2015 Sydney: Vintage Books

VALE

Freeman Derek Walker 14 December 1930 – 3 March 2017



Derek Walker joined Rostrum (Fremantle Club 6) in 1979 and in his words “Life was never the same again”. Derek’s natural inclination to hold court and to bluntly tell people what he thought had found a home.

He loved the organisation with a passion and when he transferred to Dianella Club (30) in the early 80s he quickly moved up the ranks from committee member (at Fremantle), to Treasurer, Secretary and President. In 1985 Derek became a qualified critic, or tutor as they are called these days, and his first club as tutor was Club 22 which he eventually joined in the late 80s when he and the love of his life wife Audrey moved from Dianella to Hillarys.

Derek poured his efforts into Rostrum. At one stage in 1990 he was the tutor at two clubs and Program Director at Club 22. In 1992 he became the Dais Rep for Club 22 and the Co-ordinator for Autumn Convention, a role he carried out for many years.

Derek was a stalwart to his club, and to Dais, via its Executive. He was never one to be silent when he ought to speak! – Fmn Bill Smith

In March 1993 Derek was elevated to Rostrum’s highest position of Freeman. Fittingly he was elevated at the Autumn Convention by the National President of Rostrum.

He continued working hard for Rostrum and in 1995 was Vice President of Rostrum WA, Dais Rep and President of Club 22, an active tutor, and Co-ordinator of the Autumn Convention. The following year he was briefly Editor of the *Informers*. In 1999 he was awarded the Bronze Medallion in recognition of his long service to Club 22 and Rostrum.

Another Rostrum legend has gone to that great DAIS in the sky. We will all miss him – Fmn Ken Holzman

Outside Rostrum his life was varied and full of adventure. Born in Preston, England in 1930, he excelled at Preston Grammar and in 1948 joined the Preston Sea Cadets where he went to Wireless College and then completed his National Service in the Royal Navy in 1949/50. For seven years from 1951 Derek was a Radio Operator with the Merchant Navy Blue Funnel Line through which he made strong friendships that endured to the end. He fitted the sailor stereotype of having a girl in every port. Towards the end of his service he ferried sheep, cattle and passengers between Perth and Singapore on the ‘Gorgan’. As a radio operator he had his own cabin where he could ‘entertain’ passengers in private.

I remember Derek fondly, so sorry to hear of his passing – Fmn Tony Lightman

Sad news indeed – Fmn Wayne Passmore

He then joined the Overseas Telecommunications Commission where he worked for 32 years, ending his career with them as Manager of the Perth Station. He met Audrey in Broome and then with his family travelled with OTC to Perth, Papua New Guinea, Darwin and then back to Perth in 1976. The Walker family experienced the wrath of Cyclone Tracey in Darwin and were very fortunate to survive that ordeal. Audrey refused to revisit Darwin from that time on.

Derek was a man of many interests. He played competition soccer, squash, cricket, badminton and snooker. He was a talented calligrapher and artist and loved to listen to classical music and read poetry.

His contribution to Rostrum was extensive and fulfilling. His speeches were always thoughtful and captured the interest of the audience, his general knowledge was superb and his presence at Club 2230 is extremely missed.

*Derek was never one to pull any punches with his opinions. I was privileged to be at Club 34 when he was critic, during my 'formative years' and I recall that his forthrightness was so valuable to me, even when it hurt. Whenever he gave a compliment it was a rare and cherished treasure because you knew you'd earned it...it wasn't just a show of gratuitous positivity. Will we ever see his like again?
Farewell to the Big Wee Man – Fmn Karen Reid*

One of Derek’s favourite poets was Welshman Dylan Thomas who wrote *Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night*. Derek certainly did not go gentle into that good night and lived life to the fullest at every opportunity.

*Derek was a very good friend and will be missed.
One of the great Rostrum members
– Freeman Graeme Byass*

Many Rostrum members and Freeman attended Derek’s funeral on 10 March, including State President Fmn Sue Hart, Chairman of Freeman’s Council, Fmn Bill Smith and other members of the Dais Executive.

Freeman Terry Walker

ROSTRUM CLUB 15 is excited to host its ANNUAL



Come and be entertained by entrants in the

COMEDY SPEECH CONTEST

First prize: **\$250** Runner up: **\$100**

WE ARE SEEKING CONTESTANTS NOW!

Enquiries to Anna Piscicelli anna.piscicelli@planning.wa.gov.au

Plus

HUMOROUS DEBATE

Will the Champions Club 2230 prevail against the Challengers Club 5?

When: TUESDAY, 2 MAY 2017
Where: HOCKEY CLUB, CURTIN UNIVERSITY
Eastman Lounge
Time: 6.00 pm – 9.30 pm
Cost: \$30 includes a two course meal plus tea/coffee
Drinks available at the bar
Enquiries: Ryan Whiddett ryan.whiddett@gmail.com
Bookings: Group bookings to be made by Club Treasurers using the booking form
Closing date for bookings and payment is **24 April 2017**

A refresher on debating (part 1) – in time for Club 15's Comedy Night

This article sets out what is expected of speakers in a debate and how the adjudicator assesses their effectiveness in arguing their team's case. The article, by the late Freeman Derek Walker, originally appeared in the *Informer* in 1996. It is reproduced here, with minor modification, as an acknowledgment of Freeman Derek's contribution to Rostrum and as an aid to the speakers involved in the Humorous Debate at Club 15's Comedy Night on 2 May. Part 2 of this article, on Matter, Manner and Method, will appear in the April *Informer*.

Debates are held between two teams (one for the 'affirmative' one for the 'negative') each consisting of three speakers. The topic to be debated is always couched as a statement, eg 'That modern man is insignificant' with the affirmative team arguing for the proposition and the negative team against. Each speaker has a specific function to fulfil in order to achieve a convincing argument that can successfully refute that of the opposing team.

The following notes are from Freeman Kevin Myers's *Guide to Debaters and Adjudicators*. [Kevin Myers was a life member of the WA Debating League, captain of the WA state team 1972-76, and President of the Australian Debating Federation 1977-82.]

DUTIES OF SPEAKERS

First Affirmative. Should introduce the subject to the audience, define any difficult and technical words and phrases and if the subject proposition is capable of two or more meanings or interpretations, indicate which meaning or interpretation the affirmative's side proposes to adopt; reasons should be given. Outline briefly but clearly the team's case and indicate which aspects it is proposed shall be covered by the team's second and third speaker. Develop his/her own point and conclude with a brief summary and concluding remarks.

First Negative. May commence with a relevant introduction which should be followed by an acceptance or rejection of the first affirmative's definitions and interpretations. If modified or rejected should put forward the definitions and

interpretations which the negative team considers should be adopted; reasons should be given. Where the team considers that all subsequent argument will depend on the interpretations adopted, may be content with dealing with that issue, otherwise should strongly attack the essence 'if disputed' of the first affirmative speech and any other major point of the same which the negative team contests. Should not indulge in detailed criticism of lesser or minor points. Should then outline his team's case and proceed as for the first affirmative. Should not, however, allot a point of the case to the third negative because that speaker cannot introduce new matter.

Second Affirmative. May commence with a relevant introduction which should be followed by a taking up of the main point in issue and not be content with criticism of lesser or minor points. Should endeavour to re-establish or consolidate the affirmative interpretation and the team's main points if they are in dispute. Otherwise should strongly attack the essence or the major point or points 'if disputed' of the first negative speech. Should then develop in detail the point or points allotted to him by the team leader and finish with a brief summary and concluding remarks.

Second Negative. May commence with a relevant introduction which should be followed by taking up of the main points in issue; could endeavour to re-establish or consolidate the negative interpretation and the team leader's main points if they are disputed. Otherwise should attack main points, if disputed, of the affirmative case so far and in more detail than the team leader. Should then proceed as advised for the second affirmative.

Third Affirmative. May commence with a relevant introduction. Should then take up the main points in issue, whether on interpretation or otherwise. Should strongly attack the opposition case with or without specific reference to the individual members of the opposing team. May introduce new matter in support of the affirmative team's case. If allotted a section of the affirmative case, should develop it. Should summarise own team's case and

opposing case and should compare and contrast the two and endeavour to show his team's case is superior.

Third Negative. As for the third affirmative, except that cannot introduce new matter, unless it be by way of rebuttal.

It is emphasised that there need not be a sharp line of demarcation between criticism and development of new matter. Criticism, defence and new matter may be interwoven. Further, it is not essential that the third affirmative speaker be allotted a point of the team's case.

THE ADJUDICATOR'S TASK

The system of marking for debates is completely different from that used by critics in judging competition speeches. The adjudicator has to decide which of the two teams performed the better by allotting a mark to each team out of a maximum of 300, of which 100 marks are apportioned to each speaker on the following basis:

MATTER – maximum 40 marks

MANNER – maximum 40 marks

METHOD – maximum 20 marks.

Matter is the substance of the speech (what is said). Manner is the style of the speaker (how it is said). Method is the form of the speech (how it is set out).

While Matter is a major consideration, it is not the only one. Two speakers may use exactly the same words, yet one may be impressive and persuasive and the other dull and uninteresting. Again, one speaker may use the same arguments, but the one who sets out his work in an orderly and clear fashion and relates his argument to his team's case will be more easily understood.

Each of the sections is important and collectively they cover all aspects of a debating speech which need to be considered by the adjudicator.

The team which puts forward the better argument is not necessarily the winner because although it will have better marks for matter it may be weaker in manner and method. In the same way, the best speaker may be in the losing team because that team as a whole was inferior.

SIDNEY WICKS NATIONAL COMPETITION:

State Finals are Now Open!

*The competition is FREE to enter
and is open to ALL Rostrum WA members!*

From novice speakers to experienced Freemen
all are welcome to enter and compete in the WA State Final!

Speech Topics:

My first time

In the blink of an eye

Missing

Under the carpet

The new age

Shame

*Speech timing is 10 minutes, with a warning bell at 8 minutes

You can use the same topic in the HEATS, SEMIS and the WA STATE FINAL!

Speeches for the National Final will also be 10 minutes and new speech topics will be provided to the State winners!

HEATS: April 18 through to the end of April

SEMI FINALS: the week of May 8

WA STATE FINAL: Saturday May 27

NATIONAL FINAL: Friday July 28 in Brisbane!

(Travel for the WA State Winner to compete in Brisbane will be provided by Rostrum!)





Sidney Wicks WA State Final 2017 COMPETITION ENTRY FORM

The WA State Winner will compete in the National Final in Brisbane in July!

Name:

Address:

Email:

Phone:

Home Club:

Preferred weekdays for heats/semis:

*Heats: April 18 through to the end of April
Semi-Finals: the week of May 8
(all heats/semis will be held in the evening)*

There is no fee to enter the competition
and all Rostrum WA members are eligible to enter!

Novices and experienced members, come on down!

EMAIL your completed entry form to SidneyWicksWA@gmail.com

For more information please contact your Sidney Wicks Coordinators
via email SidneyWicksWA@gmail.com or mobile: 0447 111 417

CLOSING DATE FOR COMPETITION ENTRIES IS March 31 2017!