



Rostrum Newsletter

President's Message

Welcome to the first NSW Rostrum Newsletter for 2010. We are hoping to make this a quarterly issue from now on and welcome contributions from clubs about special events or achievements of club members.

I am feeling my way in my new role but intend to visit and meet as many members as I can in the course of the year. As a part-time teacher, I am most available in school holidays, but can attend some metropolitan club meetings in term time. If you would like me to visit your club, please invite me to one of your meetings.

I am aware that some members are disappointed that Rostrum did not issue a handbook this year. This was the result of several factors, including the lack of volunteers to undertake the considerable work required, and our financial position at the end of 2009. I am optimistic that both of these situations will be reversed to enable us to produce a handbook in 2011.

In the meantime, the Rostrum home website has plenty of useful information and most clubs have their own page with relevant club information and contact details available. Has your club taken advantage of this facility? Are your details up to date?

On a brighter note, I congratulate John Jordan and Elizabeth Luckhurst on their generous and considerable effort in the organisation and running of the Voice of Youth. The Sydney Metropolitan heats are now complete. Recognition must also go to the adjudicators, chairpersons and time keepers, many of whom have volunteered time and again, to contribute to the success of the competition.

Make sure you put the date for the Voice of Youth State Final at NSW Parliament House, Saturday 26th June, in your diary.

2010 is the 80th Anniversary of Rostrum in Australia, with the first club being instigated on the

21st of July, 1930. Freeman David Matters (past NSW President and member of Club 20) has undertaken a huge 80th anniversary project to digitise NSW Rostrum's history via past newsletters and this valuable task is now completed.

All clubs are urged to consider ideas for incorporating this milestone into their programs at some time during the year. We should certainly mark its significance at our Annual Dinner this year. I would welcome any other suggestions from members on suitable ways to celebrate this achievement in Rostrum's life in Australia.

Fmn Penelope Phillips penphillips@gmail.com

NSW Presidents' Newsletter Archive

This year is Australian Rostrum's 80th Anniversary but as many people know, we originated in Manchester U.K. in 1923. Rostrum was brought to Australia in 1930, by Freeman Alan Croke. To celebrate the 80th birthday, I've created an electronic version of as many newsletters as I could find, from 1962 to 2007.

The archive contains more than 300 newsletters. Some were printed on dark red paper and didn't scan very well, but most are easy to read. Also included are some rare documents written by Sidney Wicks and Freeman Fred Seamons.

The early newsletters were written by the illustrious NSW President Freeman George Black in the 1960s. Later newsletters were edited by more recent prominent Rostrum Presidents such as Freeman Ted Brearly, John White, Ken Faulkes and Louise Luscombe.

We couldn't have created this record without the assistance of Fmn. Alan Milston, Fmn. Ken Faulkes, Fmn. Ron Jeffrey and Sp. John Kennedy, whose personal collections and generous contributions of time were made freely available.

Visit our webpage at Rostrum NSW to view the archive; or alternatively send Rostrum a small donation (\$20) to treasurer Ray Barham and we will send the whole archive out via snail-mail on a CD-ROM. But you'll need a computer!

For any reader of the archive who discovers that you have a copy for a date not shown online, please send it to me and we'll add it to the collection and return the valuable original.

Fmn David Matters

The Rostrum Voice of Youth 2010

Rostrum continues to be proud of the role played by our speaking competition in the development of the youth of NSW. The competition is not just for the elite young speakers but also for the boys and girls who are prepared to get up and 'give it a go', in many cases for the first time in front of an audience of strangers.

We held six well-supported series of heats at a wide range of venues throughout the metropolitan area. The 74 winners of these heats will proceed to the five Regional finals to be held in May. The winners of these Regional finals, together with the Northern NSW winners, will proceed to the NSW Zone Final to be held in June, again in Parliament House.

This year, the clubs in Southern NSW (Goulburn, Wagga Wagga, Albury and Griffith) have joined with the ACT for a new Voice of Youth zone. This new Southern NSW/ACT Zone will provide a stronger competition for all of these clubs.

We thank all our volunteers and host schools for their contribution to the competition, and offer a special thanks to the Rotary Club of Northbridge for their financial and personnel support.

For details of times and venues and for competition results and other news please refer to the website

<http://www.rostrum.com.au/nsw/voice-of-youth>

John Jordan NSW Convenor

New Members

Welcome to new members Ben Phegan and Tania Stack of Club 20. We hope your time in Rostrum will be beneficial and enjoyable.

2010 Subscriptions

If you have not already done so, please download your 2010 subscription form from the Rostrum NSW website (below the waratah!) and send your payment to our treasurer, Ray Barham, as soon as possible. The early-bird discount period has been extended to the end of April.

NSW Training Council

In our 80th year of Rostrum it is interesting to note that the five critiquing tenets of our founder, Fred Seamons, are still very relevant:

1. Give your criticism with a smile - always in a friendly manner.
2. Give some praise first to take out the sting.
3. Approach through the speaker's self-interest - explain how it will help them.
4. Make it constructive - show how, don't merely find fault.
5. End with another touch of praise and a pat on the back.

If any member is interested in attending a Critic's Course later in the year please contact me.

Fmn Louise Luscombe Lulou1@optusnet.com.au

Dais update

The first Dais meeting for the year was held on 30th March. Some of the items discussed have already been addressed in this newsletter, including our improved financial position, extension of the discount subscription deadline, increased VOY participation, plans for the handbook in 2011, a revised speakers and chairmanship booklet and ideas for marking our 80th anniversary.

Members should note that a Rostrum National Convention is being planned for 7-9th October, 2011 in Adelaide.

All Dais Representatives should note that the next Dais Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, 25th May. Your input is valued.