



ROSTRUM NEWSLETTER

President's Message

One of the highlights of each Rostrum year is the State Final of the Voice of Youth. On Saturday 26th June the combination of the beautiful crisp winter's night, the setting of the prestigious Parliament House, and the line up of eloquent young speakers resulted in a most impressive evening. John Jordan and Elizabeth Luckhurst and the faithful band of Rostrum Voice of Youth volunteers are to be congratulated on the culmination of yet another extremely successful competition.

The following day, Sunday 27th June, I attended the ACT/Southern NSW Zone Final of the Voice of Youth at the Soldier's Club in Yass. I was impressed by the standard of the speaking and the hospitality of the hosts. It also provided an opportunity to chat to Rostrum members from Goulburn and the ACT.

I look forward to seeing the winners of both of these Zones competing at the National Finals on Saturday 31st July in Brisbane.

I have also had the pleasure of attending a number of Sydney metropolitan clubs as either guest or visiting critic. It is refreshing to see the different ways that clubs organise their meetings and I urge all clubs to invite a critic from another club on a regular basis. It can be insightful for both the club, and the visitor, to see what other clubs are doing.

Fmn Penelope Phillips



VOY State Finalists at Parliament House.

Rostrum Voice of Youth Final

*Report from **John Jordan**, NSW Convenor.*

The NSW Zone Final again showcased the speaking skills of the state's most proficient young speakers. It was held in the Legislative Council Chamber of Parliament House where an audience of over 150 people enjoyed twelve students presenting their prepared and short notice speeches.

Tristan Blom and Eliza Forsyth, both past finalists in the competition, compered the event with skill and professionalism. Our ten adjudicators were very generous with their feedback to the finalists. Other Rostrum members gave of their time to carry out important roles that contributed to the success of the event. We thank Adrian Piccoli, MP for his sponsorship of the use of Parliament House, and the Rotary Club of Northbridge and two generous Rostrum members for their financial support.

The winners this year were:

Senior - Felix Donovan, Bulli High School;
runner-up - Douglas George, Redfield College.
Junior - Indyana Schneider, Reddam. House;
runner-up - Clyde Welsh, Marist College
Kogarah.

Felix and Indyana will represent NSW Zone in the National Final in Brisbane.



Felix Donovan is presented with his medal.

Rostrum Clubs in southern NSW participated in the combined ACT/Southern NSW Zone.

The results in this zone were:

Senior winner - Samantha Rose, Goulburn.
Runner-up - Georgia Carroll, Albury.

Junior winner - Molly Campbell, Pambula.
Runner-up - Bridget Devery, Goulburn.

Parents and teachers repeatedly express their thanks to Rostrum for the opportunity for the students to take part, and for the valuable and helpful feedback provided by our adjudicators. It is really rewarding to be a part of it, and I encourage you all to become involved in 2011.

The 2010 final was recorded, and copies of the DVD will be available for purchase from Rostrum for \$30.

For details of the 2011 competition and other news please refer to the website

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

Rostrum Training Council.

Choosing Freeman Seamons Competition Topics

The immediate reaction of many people on receiving competition speech topics is "I don't like any of them!" In fact, a lot of thought and discussion has gone into the selection of these topics which generally adhere to a defined format:

(1) Single word (2) Quotation (3) General Aphorism (4) Australian. Topics are open-ended, allowing for speakers to interpret them according to their particular interest and/or expertise. In addition, it is hoped that the topics will also resonate with an audience. The main

aim is for speakers to choose an aspect of the topic that appeals strongly to themselves because that is the conduit for passing meaning and enthusiasm on to an audience. Having just completed the list of 24 topics required for the semi-finals of this year's competition, I anticipate some criticism but feel sure that every contestant will find something with which they can engage.

Good luck to you all!

Fmn Louise Luscombe

Chairman, Training Council.

Freeman Seamons Semi-finals

All clubs should have conducted their club heats by the end of June and emailed the names of the winners to Louise and Bill Luscombe (lulou1@optusnet.com.au). So far we have received only eight club results. Please submit them as soon as possible or your club competitors will miss out on the semi-finals which will be held in August.

Is your club willing to host a semi-final?
Contact Bill and Louise.

Clubs with more than 10 financial members may submit two winners; clubs with fewer than 10 financial members may submit one winner. Clubs must ensure that entrants are financial. Where two winners from the same club are entered, they are expected to compete in the same semi-final.

Rostrum Anniversary Annual Dinner

Make sure the 80th Anniversary of Rostrum in Australia is a night to remember by coming to the Annual Dinner at the Eastern Suburbs Leagues Club on **Saturday 16th October**. Plans are underway for a fine dinner and Freeman Seamons Final. Put the date in your diary now.

In a postscript to the 2009 Annual Dinner, Speaker Ray Barham's crossword challenge was won by Rebecca Milston, who received a \$30.00 gift voucher for her efforts. Congratulations!

Dais update

2011 National Rostrum Convention

As mentioned in the last newsletter, there is to be a National Convention held in Adelaide on the weekend of 7-9 October, 2011. This is for all Rostrum members Australia-wide and will include Rostrum speaking and educational activities, as well as social and sight-seeing opportunities. Planning is already underway and the organisers are inviting the submission of ideas for any workshops or activities you would like to see in the weekend program. They would welcome any suggestions on aspects of speaking, criticism, training or social activities, or indeed anything else you can think of. Please pass on your ideas your president. I definitely intend to incorporate the Convention into a South Australian holiday next year.

Freeman of Rostrum

The question was raised at the most recent Dais meeting of how a member could become a Freeman of Rostrum, and whether the title was still relevant since there has not been an award of Freemanship in NSW since 2003.

A Rostrum member who has given conspicuous service to Rostrum can be nominated for this honour by his or her club. A written submission needs to be made to the Council of Freeman for consideration. If approved, a recommendation will be put to the next available Dais meeting, to be forwarded for approval by the Australian Rostrum Council.

To be a Freeman is to be held in high regard in Rostrum throughout the whole organisation and there may well be some very worthy members who deserve to be put forward by their club.

Quorum

A member has asked what constitutes a quorum at a club meeting.

The by-laws of Australian Rostrum state that "a quorum shall be seven members personally present where the number of members of the club is not more than twenty."

However, the by-laws may be amended by a majority vote of the membership of a club. Given that the regular attendance at some clubs may sometimes fall below seven, it is generally accepted that "a quorum is that number considered by the Chairman to sufficiently represent the members and to deal adequately

with business in hand". (See *Take the Chair*) For example, if a club's membership is ten people, they may agree that a quorum will be six. In the absence of a quorum, public speaking and chairmanship can still be conducted, but any 'business' decisions should be held over until such time as a quorum is present.

Soapbox Speeches in the Domain

A suggestion has been put to Dais that we should celebrate 80 years of Rostrum in Australia with a gathering for a Sunday afternoon of soapbox speeches in the Domain. The feeling was that a fine afternoon in late October or early November would be the best time of year. To make it a success we would need a critical mass and some willing spruikers.

Please canvass this suggestion at your club meetings and ask your Dais representative to bring your club's response to the next Dais meeting in August. We could show off our skills in a very public way, and we may even attract some new members.

Christmas in July - Ho! Ho! Ho!

Christmas in July at Club 51 on Wednesday 21st July, 7-9pm at Mosman Community Centre, corner of Short and Myahgah Roads, Mosman.

Free, gratis, zilch, food and soft drinks. Bacchanalians BYO. Santa will distribute modest goodies. No serious speeches; only puff and whimsy by volunteers for 1 to 8 minutes.

Numbers limited. Phone Ray 94847370, or Roberta 9904 0507 by Sunday 18th July. Make it a fun night with members and friends of Rostrum. Ho! Ho! Ho!

Anniversary Debate

Club 18 is marking the 80th anniversary on Friday 23rd July with a debate on the subject

“That Australia should be a Republic”. Is your club holding a special event?

Advertise your club event or news

Articles or items of news are welcome additions to the quarterly newsletter. Is your club celebrating a milestone? Have you inducted new members? Share your news.

Email copy for the newsletter to me at penphillips@gmail.com

Penelope Phillips

Newsletter Editor