

Cicero!

Newsletter for Rostrum Victoria
Volume 3 Issue 5 2013



The six Jo Davis finalists pictured after the announcement of the winner, Rob Ellison. Standing: Rob Ellison, Neil Addison, Andrew Morris. Seated: Kellie Coff, Mona Liban, Margaret Joiner.

The Jo Davis Competition presented Rostrum's Best

The six competitors in this year's Jo Davis were all proud examples of what Rostrum can offer. The clubs represented are clearly doing a lot right.

As the adjudicators reported, all of the elements of good communication were present: gesture, clarity, humour, content. Every speaker made an impact (a key item in the list of criteria for this competition). The other noticeable evidence of speaking skill was the attentiveness and responsiveness of the audience.

Pictured above are the six speakers who represented Clubs 4, 5, 14, 45, 48 and 68.

Another enjoyable aspect of the event was that a daughter, last year's winner Anabel Ellison had the pleasure of presenting the trophy to her father, this year's winner, Rob Ellison.

Rosalie Ahern
Newsletter Editor

From the editor

Welcome to the Jo Davis edition of Cicero! Those of us who gathered at the Olympic Hotel in Preston on August 17 were inspired, amused, informed and quite possibly changed by what we saw and heard.

In this issue there are pictures of Club 61 enjoying their club experience. Why not enjoy Spencer's quiz? In the next issue of Cicero! we pay tribute to the newly elevated freeman webmaster Jenny Blain of club 45

Rosalie Ahern Editor
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Activities at Eastside Rostrum Club 61



Eddy demonstrates how to fold a T-shirt in 30 seconds.



Club 45 visits for a mock 21st Birthday for 'Fifi', with appropriate speeches.



Steve uses photos for his talk on his daughter's wedding and the preparations beforehand.

Club 61 photographs and information provided by Brian Hill

Chairmanship Quiz

This is the fourth quiz on chairmanship. How much do you know?

You could discuss these questions in your Club's next meeting and work out your answers. Please send answers to the Editor.

First correct answer will win a book on Public Speaking for their Club library.

Results will be published in the next edition of Cicero!.

This time it's the first of 2 about the chairman and their role.

1. What should a chairman do if a member wants to repeatedly speak to a motion?
2. What should a chairman do if they have a vested interest in a matter under discussion?
3. What should a chairman do if an Agenda item is over time?
4. Does the chairman have a casting vote?
5. How should a chairman deal with an unruly member?

The answers will be published in the next issue.

Answers to the previous quiz are on page 4 of this newsletter

President's Words

I am recently back from the Australian Rostrum Council (ARC) annual conference in Canberra in this 90th year of the Rostrum movement. It was a positive and successful conference focusing on streamlining the way we operate.

With the next census we will seek a little more member information, including year of birth. The data we have shows a small growth in the number of clubs but a small fall in the number of members from 2011 to 2012. For accuracy the ARC calculates levies on the previous year membership.

The draft constitution was discussed to make the current ARC Constitution compliant with its SA based registration. Compliance will allow a move to the national jurisdiction for national operation.

Significant budgets have been allocated to improvement of our successful website and also developing a marketing plan.

The National Voice of Youth competition was held at the ACT Legislative Assembly as part of the ACT Centenary celebrations. The speeches of the competitors were wonderfully uplifting. The winners were Dinasha Perera (QLD) Seniors and Georgia Hinds (NSW) Juniors.

On a visit to the National Library I read some letters by Sidney Wicks and other interesting documents in the Rostrum Archives held there. The library is open to all and will copy and send documents electronically on request.

*Robert Bicknell
President, Rostrum Victoria*



Voice of Youth 2013

Voice of Youth National Finalists enjoy the lighter side of the week-end. More on facebook group RVOY: Past and Present

The 2013 President's Honour Roll

Our Victorian Zone President, Robert Bicknell recognised the contribution and achievement of several Rostrum people at the annual dinner.

Freeman Ed Dickinson - for the development and delivery of training courses.

Freeman John Podger - for stepping into multiple roles in Rostrum, including Vice-President Western Region and Publications.

Freeman Max Cheney - for significant contribution to the clubs in the Northern region.

Freeman Frank Chandler (possibly the oldest member of Rostrum in Victoria and its longest serving member)- for his community courses to attract new members and assistance in the running of Voice of Youth.

Imogen Tenby is the youngest member of Rostrum Victoria at age 13 - for proficiently chairing a heat of Voice of Youth.

The John Green trophy— **Freeman Murray Mason** for his outstanding effort with Club 54 Bayside, the Dietrich competition and his energy and initiative as Training Officer for Club 45.

The Don Holland trophy— **Rod Black**, president of Club 54, Bayside. The club has achieved an 82% increase in membership. Robert also recognised the contribution of Murray Mason, Honey Wookey, Rob Berry and Jack Dutkiewicz.

Those who were present at the dinner were warm in their applause for all of these people who are all in their various ways representative of the best in Rostrum.

Faces at the Jo Davis and Anniversary Dinner



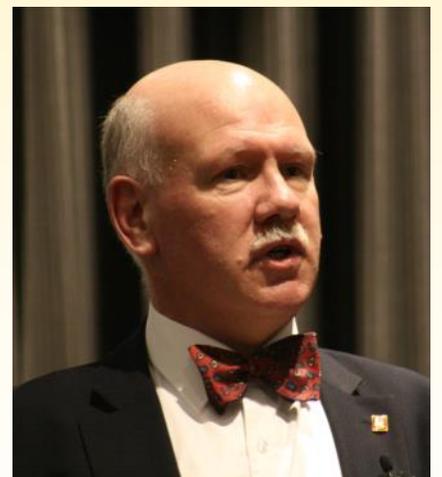
Youngest Rostrum member Imogen Tenby received an President's award for her contribution to Rostrum



Freeman Max Cheney was acknowledged for his leadership in the Western Region.



Freeman Peter Gray presents his thoughts on Defending Freedom of Speech at the Anniversary dinner



Freeman Warren Block shows his inimitable style as the MC for the 2013 Jo Davis Competition

Many thanks to Fmn John Podger for the photographs of the Annual Dinner



National Voice of Youth Finalists with Rostrum National President Dario Tomat and National Sponsor Sebel CEO Greg Walsh

Freeman Justice Peter Gray's Keynote Speech

Freeman, Justice Peter Gray chose Freedom of Speech as the theme of his inspiring keynote address at the annual dinner. Peter brought into focus the part of the Rostrum Promise which involves all of us in defending free speech in the community. Peter went on to examine what it is we mean by free speech and just how far we need to go in our defence of it. He referred us to the aphorism often (mistakenly) attributed to Voltaire: I disagree with what you say but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

The issue of whose speech (or thought) is worth defending was also considered. Those who are powerful such as journalists or politicians who might represent or express ideas which are repugnant to the majority should not expect to be defended but the less powerful such as young protesters may well require our support. Peter also referred in this part of his speech to the role of the judicial system in defining the difference between free speech and the merely scurrilous or hateful.

Peter certainly added to the richness of the evening and challenged our thinking not only about freedom of speech but our attitude to people in the community with whom we may have little in common.

Rosalie Ahern
Newsletter editor

Answers from Quiz 3

1. The chairman must ensure that the Constitution is obeyed eg does "majority vote" mean a majority of those present or those voting, or whether a Motion conflicts with the Constitution.
2. The Chairman should politely refer to any member present for assistance or tell the member that they will contact the Rostrum Secretary outside the meeting for guidance.
3. This Latin expression means "beyond the powers". A Motion may be "ultra vires" of a meeting if, for example, inadequate notice (as required by the Constitution) has been given. The Chairman must rule out of order any "ultra vires" motions proposed.
4. A sunset provision or clause is a measure in a Constitution that provides that the relevant provision or clause shall cease to have effect after a specific date, unless further action is taken to extend the provision or clause. Most Constitutions do not have sunset clauses.
5. The Constitution may be silent on procedures such as conduct of Meetings. Standing orders govern the meetings. The Constitution is a legal document while Standing Orders are interpreted according to their spirit. The Chairman should be familiar with both the Constitution and the standing orders.

Spencer Meier

ROSTRUM VICTORIA

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