



ROSTRUM

Step Up

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2020



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From the Editor



And so here we are, edging slowly to what we are hoping will be the normality that we so enjoyed before, without even noticing that it was there. A world where you did not have to veer away from strangers in the supermarket. Where you could cough in public without getting looks that were about equally divided between alarm and hostility.

A world where you could shake hands with a stranger and not be overtaken with an instinctive desire to wash them. Where you could hug, for heaven's sakes!

And where you could have Rostrum meetings in the presence of other members. Yes, many of us have had Zoom, but there was always something missing. The friendships were there, but there was definitely something less warm about engaging with your fellow Rostrum members when these living, breathing life size human beings were reduced to passport photographs a la Brady Bunch on a computer screen. And even worse for those of us who could not have any meetings at all.

And as for the speeches - it's been very hard to engage your onlookers with your physical presence or gestures when you cannot even stand. Even the arm gestures have had to be carefully rehearsed for maximum impact. But hopefully some of us will have learned a bit more about facial gestures, seeing these were the only ones we could really see under the new conditions.

Which will soon, here's hoping, be the old conditions. Some of our members have been a bit uncomfortable with participation in Zoom meetings, so it's on those who have taken the opportunity to participate over these last few difficult months to let them know we'll soon be back, and hopefully running on full throttle within weeks.

It has all been character building. But now we are back, blinking in the sunshine after a long period of darkness for the world which has changed forever, and where the power of words, truthfully and persuasively expressed, will continue to hold sway over that complicated set of arrangements that we call human affairs.

It's a different, probably a scary new world, but each of us must do what we can, marshalling and maximising our public speaking skills so that each of us can contribute to making the new world the best one that it can be.

BRIAN STEVENSON
EDITOR StepUP

Report of QRMC meeting held on 6th June 2020 meeting for Step Up and Clubs



Here's a screenshot of the Zoom QRMC meeting held on 6 June 2020. Freeman Paul Halliday took the picture. Jenny and Rod Fraser from Tasmania joined the meeting for a short while. Jenny is the national coordinator of Rostrum Voice of Youth and Rod, her husband, is the Voice of Youth Treasurer. Thanks to John Lizzio for forwarding the photo, which is published with the permission of David Thorpe.

Training

There is a series of videos on the Rostrum website concerning suggestions on improving club programs developed by WA Rostrum. To find them, go to the Rostrum website www.rostrum.com.au, once signed in, click on Club Program Ideas link under Members Only, click on Club Training Exercises. This is an excellent resource for many other tutorial notes, program ideas and icebreakers.

The videos are also posted on the Rostrum Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RostrumAustralia> where members share program ideas, achievements and information of interest to members. Also on the website under ARC training in the members only section, are five guides on various aspects of Zoom meetings.

Don't forget the Rostrum website. It is a comprehensive resource for clubs.

Rostrum Convention

It will not be clear until August whether we can proceed with the annual Convention this year. The venue is still booked for November at St Leo's College, University of Queensland, St Lucia. It is possible that a Zoom alternative may be arranged.

Speaking Competitions

Please give to consideration to entering either the Arch Williams Speaker of the Year or the Freeman Frank Smith competitions. Entry forms need to be received by July 31. If you require further information please contact our Competitions Organiser, Rod Tilley at rod.tilley@live.com

The topics for the Arch Williams Speaker of the Year Competition are:

Softening the Blow; Thinking Outside the Square; Screen Time; Beyond the Horizon; How to Win Friends and Influence People; Checks and Balances

The topics for the Freeman Frank Smith Novice Speaking Competition are:

How not to panic in a stressful situation; Signs of Hope; Beyond the Horizon; The Last Place on Earth; Grounded; The Magic of Music

COVID-19

The Australian Rostrum Council has urged clubs to give due diligence and consideration to when and how they will return to face to face meetings. It would be advantageous if clubs continue to provide Zoom connection for members who are unable to attend meetings when face to face meeting resume. Queensland Rostrum may consider its own Zoom Club which could be a way to reach people in remote areas or areas without Rostrum clubs close by.

National Survey

Thank you to those members who completed the on-line national survey conducted by the Australian Rostrum Council. The national Rostrum President Fmn Jenny Blain will provide a link to the survey results when they become available.

FMN BERNIE KETTER
QRMC Secretary

CLUB SUBSCRIPTIONS PAYABLE TO QUEENSLAND ROSTRUM IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Australian Rostrum Council has advised that in recognition of the hardship and isolation that many members may be enduring during the time of this pandemic, the Council has reduced its member fees for the coming year to zero. As a result of this, the Queensland Rostrum Management Committee, at its recent meeting, has decided to reflect this reduction by reducing the subscriptions payable to Queensland Clubs for the period 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020 to zero. This means that Queensland clubs will not receive subscription invoices for the half year commencing 1 July 2020.

Before the end of the calendar year, a further decision will be taken on the level of subscriptions to be charged from 1 January 2021.

Fmn Geoff Read
QRMC Treasurer

CLUB 3 INDUCTS NEW MEMBER AT ZOOM MEETING



Club 3 President George Row inducted Harry Norrie as a new Club 3 Rostrum member at Rostrum ZOOM Meeting on the 7th May 2020. There were 14 in attendance including Club 3 Member Julius Yeoh, currently working in Cairns and Rod Tilley visiting from Gold Coast.

Harry first came to Club 3 at Ithaca Hall and now attends over ZOOM. George welcomed Harry into the comradery of Club 3. Club 3 member and Secretary, Paul Mulhall was coach.

Club 3 has invited guest coaches for its ZOOM meetings in coming months including Keith Whatmore, now living on Norfolk Island, Ian Olsson Club 5, Brian Korner Club 17, Carmel Remphry Club 17, Merv Green and Geoff Read, Club 10 and John Lizzio Club 31, Cairns.

George Row
President Rostrum Club 3

Strong attendance for Rostrum Club 10 Committee meeting, 19th May 2020



Rostrum Club 10 Committee Members had a strong rollup for their Rostrum Club 10 meeting on the 19th May 2020.

Siska Tiauw and Bin Yau are new Committee members. Two members not on the Committee were invited to broaden the conversation.

Rostrum ZOOM allows these Rostrum Club 10 meetings to occur.

Fmn Bernie Ketter
Secretary Rostrum Club 10

ROSTRUM CLUB 3 HOLDS ITS FIRST HYBRID MEETING



Club 3 President George Row and Anna West



**Guest Coach
Fmn Geoff
Read (Club 10)**



**Hybrid – ZOOM at
Ithaca Hall**

On 11 June 2020 Rostrum Club 3 held its first hybrid meeting, following at all times the rules for social distancing and cleansing in response to Covid 19.

Twelve members attended at Ithaca Hall plus Freeman Geoff Read (Club 10) as guest coach. Three members, Julius, Flora (both of whom gave speeches) and Bill participated on Zoom.

A special message was conveyed to Freeman Bill who is confined to home because of illness. Also, we had a surprise and welcome visit on ZOOM from Australian Rostrum President, Freeman Jenny Blain from Melbourne who updated members on National Initiatives.

Thanks to Anna West (our technical guru), Paul Mulhall (Secretary) and Rosalie Roberts (Treasurer) for good preparation.

QRMC President, Freeman David Thorpe endorsed the hybrid meeting, saying: 'This will be the way of the future and enable us to cater for members who cannot attend a physical meeting, and hopefully will also attract country people to Rostrum.'

**Paul Mulhall
Rostrum Club 3 Secretary**

Upcoming Events

- **11th July 2020 review of RVoY by QRMC**
- **1st August 2020, QRMC Meeting- QRMC meeting @ 9:15AM - 11:59AM**

Submissions for the next Issue of Step Up

Submissions for the next issue of Step Up close on Friday 18th September, 2019.

Step Up is all about letting Queensland Rostrum members share what is going on in their world of Rostrum. You can send your stories and photos of meetings, competitions, celebrations, dinners, and especially new members. Send them in and they will be compiled for the next edition.

Send submissions to Brian Stevenson (Rostrum Club 31, Cairns) at qldeditor@rostrum.com.au

Thank you all for your submissions, feedback and help.
Step Up does not happen without you!

Brian Stevenson Step Up Editor
ROSTRUM QUEENSLAND

TRAINING VIDEOS FROM WESTERN AUSTRALIA!

A MESSAGE FROM JENNY BLAIN, PRESIDENT ROSTRUM AUSTRALIA

Freeman David Price from Western Australia is presenting a series of videos with suggestions for improving your club program.

Western Australia uses the term Program Director for the club member responsible for production of the club program and the advancement of members towards their speaking goals. You may use a different term but the ideas are valid for all our meetings.

David's first video is available at <https://youtu.be/fEXwoFRS75A>.

Log in to Rostrum website <http://www.rostrum.com.au/> and then click the Club Program Ideas link <http://www.rostrum.com.au/program-ideas> (if you are already logged in). David's program ideas and notes are available under the heading Western Australia Program Ideas along with many other tutorial notes, program ideas and icebreakers.

The videos are also posted on the Rostrum Facebook group <https://www.facebook.com/groups/RostrumAustralia> where members share program ideas, achievements and information of interest to members.



Our Top Clubs

Congratulations to our two award-winning clubs for 2019. Once again Cairns City Club 31 has taken out the Freeman Arthur Pain award for the best country club in Queensland. Club 31 has proven itself the winner in five of the past six years. (No award was given in 2018).

Meanwhile, for the second year running, Brisbane West Club 17 received the Founder R Alan Crook Award as Queensland's top club. Club President Brian Korner said, "I am thrilled at the news, as are all my fellow club members. Our success is down to a team effort. Our members thrive on having challenging speaking programs and on us delivering a high standard of coaching. Last but not least, the active and enthusiastic participation of all our members means that our meetings are of a very high quality."