



# Cicero!

Volume 3 Issue 1 Jan 2013

The newsletter of Rostrum Victoria

## Profile: Robert Bicknell



I am delighted to be a member of Rostrum and I am disappointed with myself that I didn't join earlier. Rostrum has so much to offer.

I really enjoy my life and the key elements of this are:

- **Bushwalking** - I go bushwalking with family and friends too infrequently. While most of our treks have been in Victoria and Tasmania some have also been in the French alps and New Zealand
- **My work** - I have enjoyed working for Telstra in a variety of roles for forty seven years. I currently manage an Info Technology team
- **Personal development** - While I left school and went to work when I was young, my life has been one of continuous training and development. I have completed a Masters of Business (IT) and all its prerequisites at night school; part of my work has been as a technical trainer and manager facilitating the training of others. My time in Rostrum is part of this ongoing development.

- **Science and technology** - I have a technical bent and have worked with a broad range of technologies. I am also a member of the Royal Society of Victoria.
- **Family** - My wife, two adult children and broader family are an integral part of who I am.
- **Travel** - My first travel outside Australia was to visit childhood pen friends in the Philippines. I was amazed and delighted by the new things I found. I have travelled to North America, parts of Europe and SE Asia for work and for pleasure.

**Rostrum** - I have enjoyed every one of the challenges and opportunities Rostrum has given me.

I love the supportive environment and development intent of Rostrum. We learn from our successes and our mistakes, hopefully more of the former than the latter.

At work and in Rostrum I take a collaborative approach. It is only through working together that we can be productive and successful.

It is important for Rostrum to grow. To be successful we need to meet the needs and desires of our existing members. I wish to know how we can do this better. Please let me know what you think.

*Robert Bicknell, President, Rostrum*

## Cicero! Vol 3, Issue 1, 2013

Welcome to a new year of Cicero!

My grateful thanks firstly to Debbie Welsh and Jenny Blain of Club 45 for keeping the newsletter alive and well during my year of adventure after which I am glad to say that I am also alive and well. My thanks to all of you for your good wishes and concern - especially Club 45 members.

This year we welcome a new president and executive. Robert's profile appears in this issue. It is good to know that Rostrum will continue in safe care and we look forward to participating in promoting Rostrum as a grass roots provider of communication skills and personal development. Good luck Robert.

I am giving early notice that I will be handing over the role of editor of Cicero! at the end of the year. If you are interested in donning the editorial eye-shade let me know. I believe that jobs should be shared around regularly and I would gladly see someone else bring a new style and approach. I will happily initiate you into the tasks involved. Let's hope that Rostrum and Cicero! have a great year.

*Rosalie Ahern*

[vicnewsletter@rostrum.com.au](mailto:vicnewsletter@rostrum.com.au)



## Star Rating Your Club



Freeman Murray Mason of Club 45 has devised a club star rating system. As we begin a new year some clubs may find Murray's idea of interest.

Now is the time to set up a star rating scheme for your club. This is a self-assessment scheme that provides members of your club with an incentive to become more involved in Rostrum and to contribute to the improvement of your club. All you need do is set up a point scoring system that suits your club and check at regular intervals throughout the year to see how you are progressing. At the end of the year the club earns two stars for the first ten points and then one extra star for each additional 10 points.

Points can be awarded as follows:

- 1 for each full member
- ½ for each student member
- 1 for each Freeman
- 1 for each accredited coach
- 1 for each accredited Training Officer
- 2 for each member of the Rostrum Executive
- 1 for each member of a Rostrum sub-committee
- 1 for hosting a Rostrum event (VOY, etc)
- 2 for participating in an inter-club meeting
- 1 for providing a speaker in a Rostrum competition
- 2 for winning the Jo Davis Cup competition
- 1 for winning other Rostrum competitions
- 1 for adjudicating at a Rostrum event
- 1 for winning a Rostrum special award
- 1 for each trainer at a Rostrum workshop
- 1 for each person assisting with the VOY competition

This is just a suggested list. Points can be awarded for any worthwhile activity your club or a club member undertakes. Just remember it is a scheme to assess your club's performance and comparisons can be made from year to year.

You might well be surprised how your club members respond to such a scheme. It can provide a sense of pride in your club.

*Murray Mason* [vicclub45@rostrum.com.au](mailto:vicclub45@rostrum.com.au)

## Victorian Zone Executive 2013

**President:** Spr Robert Bicknell  
**Past President:** Fmn Neil Addison  
**Secretary/PO:** Fmn John Podger  
**Treasurer:** Spr Claudia Haddad  
**Ass Treasurer:** Fmn Spencer Meier  
**VP Eastern:** Spr Jack Dutkiewicz  
**VP Northern:** Fmn Max Cheney  
**VP Western Region:** TBA  
**VP Events:** Fmn George Schmidt  
**VP Membership:** TBA  
**VP Strategy:** Spr Debbie Welsh  
**VP Training:** Spr Ros McFarlane  
**Webmaster:** Spr Jenny Blain  
**VOY Co-ordinator:** Spr Kylie Campbell  
**Publications Officer:** Fmn Rebe Grosman

**Archivist:** Fmn Heather Addison  
 Contact details for all the executive are on the website at [www.rostrum.com.au/vic/executive](http://www.rostrum.com.au/vic/executive)

## 2013 Training dates

Sun 24 Mar 2-5pm  
 Training Officer Seminar  
 Sat 13 Apr 9-5pm  
 Critic Introduction  
 Sat 13 Apr 9-5pm  
 Taking Part in Competitions  
 Sat 10 Aug 9-1pm  
 Intro to meeting procedure  
 Sat 10 Aug 2-5pm  
 Website for clubs  
 Sat 21 Sep 9-5pm  
 Critic Accreditation  
 Sun 20 Oct 2-5pm  
 Critic Forum  
 Sat 26 Oct 9-5pm  
 Office Bearers

Contact Roslyn McFarlane  
[victraining@rostrum.com.au](mailto:victraining@rostrum.com.au) to register interest in the sessions

## WE'VE GOT 'EM...HOW DO WE KEEP 'EM???



Website, flyers, workshops, word-of-mouth; no matter how people found your club, the BIG QUESTIONS are: “how do we get them to join?” and “how do we keep them?” Alright, these questions are not as BIG as “is there a God?” or “where did I come from?” but, in the scheme of keeping Rostrum alive and kicking, they are BIGGISH.

In attempt to answer these biggish questions, the Strategy Committee will be running a workshop on Sunday, March 17th from 2.15pm (for a 2.30pm start) to 5pm at the Ashburton Baptist Church Hall. We will work our way through that first phone call or email from a prospective member to the value of keeping in contact with former members.

We would like to see representatives from clubs who are struggling and desperately need inspiration to clubs who are flourishing and are willing to inspire!

Please register for the workshop with Debbie Welsh [vicstrategy@rostrum.com.au](mailto:vicstrategy@rostrum.com.au) or Ros McFarlane [victraining@rostrum.com.au](mailto:victraining@rostrum.com.au) by 8th March 2013.



*Rostrum Eastside and Malvern clubs celebrated Fifi's 21st birthday*

## CICERO! SURVEY LESSONS

Apparently many of you enjoy reading Cicero! and you responded positively to the survey conducted by Debbie Welsh in 2012.

The feed-back suggested that the series of profiles of executive members and freemen and articles focussing on club activities were popular. It seems that the tone and general content of Cicero! are appropriate.

Some useful suggestions were made.

- The editor's email address and the date of publication of the next issue should appear in each issue. Easily done!
- Extend each issue to three pages. Could be done, however the vision when Cicero! was first published was a two page format with extended articles and material to be published on the website. A compromise might be to make every other issue three pages.
- Give generous space to welcoming new members. Easily done if individual clubs participate. Contact the editor with details of your new members with a comment on their early experience of Rostrum and how they felt when they tried out their newly acquired Rostrum skills.

The next issue of Cicero! will be published March 7<sup>th</sup> – send contributions to [vicnewsletter@rostrum.com.au](mailto:vicnewsletter@rostrum.com.au)