



Cicero!

Volume 3 Issue 3 Apr 2013

The newsletter of Rostrum Victoria

VP Eastern - Jack Dutkiewicz



Presently I'm VP Eastern Region. What do I do? Simply, I Rostrum.

Part of my role is visiting the clubs in my region. This is a task that I like to do as this gives me the opportunity to meet other clubs' members. Each club has a different personality and this difference is an education in itself. Visiting clubs also allows me to remind club members of the other offerings that Rostrum provides: opportunities to take part in speaking competitions, become critics, training officers and excellent office bearers. Of course I see the improvements of various speakers within those clubs.

Meeting other people encourages exchanges of information, sharing ideas and suggesting better ways to run meetings, do critiques and run the club. I can then disseminate this information during visits to other clubs.

These visits also provide the glue that binds the clubs to the higher levels of Rostrum. It is a way of keeping an eye on events as they unfold.

Clubs can provide excellent ideas but also potential problems can be nipped in the bud.

As VP I also meet other Rostrum members during Council and Executive meetings be they face to face or via Skype. Rostrum gives you the opportunity to shine, but it is up to you to find how high you can fly.

Jack Dutkiewicz VP Eastern

Grants for your Club

Preston Rostrum Club 48 has received a number of grants from Governments and local Council. This allowed the club to purchase the following items. A laptop, programs, a colour printer / scanner, projector, public address system, several microphones and a video camera. The local Council has provided free use of the meeting room.

This has allowed us to store records electronically (minutes, letters - scanning the documents and matching them to the relevant minutes, speaking programs etc. PowerPoint is used in training and presentations. The microphones and video camera are used in training exercises. Emails are stored on the computer so that a new secretary has all records available to them.

So I recommend to all to check out the opportunities for funding and take advantage of them.

Fmn Max Cheney VP Western

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Here we are at Issue 3 already. Your club will have had some enjoyable meetings and hopefully will have welcomed some new members. In this issue you will again see some opportunities for training and to volunteer at Voice of Youth. These events are part of the fun of Rostrum and will enrich your experience in your club.

My thanks to those who contribute to Cicero! It is great to know that there are so many willing contributors who respond so gracefully to my importunate emails. If there is anything you would like to add to Cicero! I would gladly receive it. Letter to the editor maybe?

Rosalie Ahern

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Victorian Zone Executive

Contact details for the executive are on the website at

www.rostrum.com.au/vic/executive



Voice Of Youth

As autumn wraps us in its gentle embrace, our thoughts turn to the Voice of Youth. Since 1975, Rostrum has given secondary students the opportunity to compete in the Voice of Youth. Senior and junior secondary students present prepared speeches in the heats and in semi-finals, they also present a short notice speech. The competition is a great challenge for the participants and their efforts give a sense of achievement. Last year Victoria provided the Junior winner and the Senior runner up at the National final held in Hobart.

This event cannot take place without the support of many Rostrum members. They act as Chairmen, Adjudicators and Timekeepers. They welcome students and shepherd them from room to room. They also have the chance to listen to some fascinating speeches and to feel proud of Rostrum's contribution to the leaders of the future.

If you feel stirred into action, please email the Voice of Youth Co-ordinator, Kylie Campbell: vicvoy@rostrum.com.au. Volunteers are needed for the following dates:

Regional Heats/ Semi Finals

St Patrick's College, Ballarat Sun, 5th May 10.45am - 3.00pm

Notre Dame College, Shepparton Sat, 11th May 10.45am - 3.00pm

Metropolitan Heats/ Semi Finals

Avilla College, Mount Waverley Sun, 19th May 10.45am - 5.00pm

Mount Scopus Memorial College, Burwood on Sunday, 26th May 2013 from 10.45am to about 5.00pm

State Final

Scotch College, Hawthorn on Sun 23rd June 10.45am - 5.00pm

Robert Bicknell

President Rostrum Victoria

Last month's quiz answers

1. What methods can be used to vote on Motions?
Acclamation, ballot, division, poll, voices and show of hands

2. What is plural voting?
Voting on more than one Motion at the same time

3. What is proxy voting?
Voting by a person who has been appointed to represent and vote for another

1. Unless there is a good reason to vote everyone should vote on a motion. What are the only 2 times when a voter may abstain?

When the voter has a conflict of interest or if the voter believes that there was insufficient information to make a decision. Otherwise abstentions are meaningless because the Chairman has no obligation to call for them and "to abstain" means not to vote at all.

Spencer's Quiz

This is the second of a casual quiz on Chairmanship and related matters. How much do you know?

We suggest that you discuss these questions in the General Business section of your Club's next Meeting so that all members can consider 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 edition it's all about seconding. All Motions must be seconded if specified in the standing orders, by-laws or constitution of an organisation but what do you know about seconding?

1. Why should all Motions be seconded?
2. What is seconding "pro forma"?
3. What is the risk of the seconder reserving their right to speak until later in the debate?
4. What is the major difference between the rights of the mover of a Motion and its seconder?
5. During the debate on a Motion or an Amendment, the mover may ask for their Motion to be withdrawn. What are the rights of the seconder?

President's Words

I am yet again proud to be a Rostrum member, having just received a copy of the book "The Gentle Art of Persuasion - How to Argue Effectively" by Chester Porter QC. We should all be proud.

Chester Porter, a renowned Queens Council, retired after 52 years as a NSW barrister. He spent 26 years as a junior council and 26 years as a QC. He joined Rostrum as a young barrister and eventually became a critic.

In the book Porter says "I think the best public speaking teacher I had was Rostrum"

This is justified praise from a brilliant advocate. He acknowledges the value of Rostrum's Critics in providing feedback to members, helping them develop and grow. He observes "As a Critic one learns a great deal."

Rostrum is a wonderful place to develop our skills and we provide great training to members in many fields including accreditation as a Rostrum Critic.

Robert Bicknell

President, Rostrum Victorian Zone

Rostrum Resources

Recently, I have had an inner ear infection and being unable to read I ended up listening to talking books and other resources. This meant that I revisited Ed Dickinson's CD on different speech structures. Nearly 15 years ago when I joined Rostrum, I found this useful. Now, after many years, hearing it again was still valuable.

For the beginner, this presentation shows up patterns in speeches that seem to be "just good" without knowing how or why. For the more advanced it reminds us of creative ways of getting a speech to flow and match the message and audience. "Over 50 ways to Structure Any Speech" was only half an hour; I like the way Ed leads us through a simple example that presents the same topic in different structures and includes hints (it is often better to choose structure before going and doing your research).

My compliments to Ed for this teaching tool and I remind you that it is still available - "Publications" on page 29 of Rostrum handbook.
Fmn Heather Addison, Coach of Club 4 & 6

John Podger Steps Up



John Podger, former Zone President has answered the call and is serving as Western Region secretary for the time being. The search is on to find a permanent appointment. Are you that person? In the meantime, thank you John.

2013 Training dates

Apr

Sat 13 Critic Introduction

Sat 13 Taking Part in Competitions

Aug

Sat 10 Intro to meeting procedure

Sat 10 Website for clubs

Sep

Sat 21 Critic Accreditation

Oct

Sun 20 Critic Forum

Sat 26 Office Bearers Training

The next issue of Cicero! will be published June 6th – send contributions to vicnewsletter@rostrum.com.au