

Tasmanian Rostrum State Presidents Report 2024

When we reflect on the year that was, 2024 was a year of accomplishment for Tasmanian Rostrum.

Thanks are due to the magnificent Fmn Jenny Fraser for her impressive management and organisation of the Rostrum Voice of Youth competitions in Tasmania. Her stalwart organisation and leadership made a triumphant success of Regional Finals, State Finals, and most impressively, the 50th Anniversary Final of the Voice of Youth Competition in Tasmania.

Organising such events is like herding cats at the best of times. Bravo Jenny! Your efforts have brought great credit to us all. Though we do have to be astonished by your courage, while being grateful for it, given that you are already working for the success of the 2026 Voice of Youth!

CONTENTS

President's Report 1
Club 11 Brochure 4
Expo of Everything 6
Freeman Will Cassidy 7
Club 3 Hagiography 7
RVOY National Finals 8
Fmn Leo Inspires 13
Fmn David Asten Explores 14
RVOY State Finals 15
Ruth Forest MLC 16
Club 11 17
FACA for Club 9 18
Hobart 30 November 19
Debating Trophy 20
David Clive 21
Northern News 22
Club 2 Awards 23
Ed. Dates 23

No wonder you were awarded the National Gold Medallion this year!

The amazing Will Cassidy, Past President of Tasmanian Rostrum hosted both the Tasmanian speak-off for entrants in the On-line speaking competition, and to run the National on-line speaking Competition in Tasmania.

His elevation to Freemanship this year at the Voice of Youth Dinner was one of the year's highlights, and well deserved.

Freeman Martin Stone has made Rostrum members from other States jealous of Tasmania's outstanding achievements in training. His running of the Coaches' accreditation process embodies a high standard of thoroughness, discipline, and precision. This rigorous process not only accredits trainees who successfully complete it but also clearly indicates their eligibility for accreditation. It ensures that each team member's skills and competencies are meticulously developed, fostering an environment of excellence. Such a methodical approach guarantees that accreditation is well-deserved, and as a result, Tasmania has two new accredited Coaches this year, Fmn Lorraine Redway and Spr Bella MacPherson.

His coach training courses are not only available on the Tasmanian Google Drive, but National has also posted copies on their Google Drive. Likewise with the impressive debate training courses he conducted with John Hayton.

Also bringing credit to us are the training courses conducted by Speakers Roger Viney and Jim McCormack.

The wonderful Gai Cunningham has stepped up to the plate to ensure WordPower continues. Her immediate predecessor had to cancel early in their tenure, with no edition produced, and if it were not for Gai, this long-running institution would no longer exist.

As I write, we are about to conduct the 2024 Novice Speakers' Competition, and the Sir John Morris Memorial Award. You may know who won; I don't. But thanks to Spr Jim and to Southern Regional VP's terrific organisation, I am sure they will go well.

National Online Speaking Competition

After a very successful state competition in 2021, Victorian Rostrum organised the inaugural National Online Public Speaking competition. Organisation of the competition has travelled to the location of the previous Year's Winner's State. After Freeman Rod Fraser's impressive win in 2023, it was Tasmania's turn. We held a Statewide elimination competition to choose our representative, and Spr Lynne Ellis was selected to represent us, which she did to an enviable standard.

Congratulations Lynne!

Both the State and the National competitions were impressively hosted by Fmn Will Cassidy.

Novice Speakers' Competition

I always look forward to the annual Novice Speakers' Competition, seeing these fresh-faced members, summon up their courage, step out and speak in front of an audience.

In 2024 five members have taken up the challenge to enter the Novice Speakers competition; Cris Tavares of Club 2, Thea Quasrani of club 3, Zona Wu of Club 8, and Zoe Dong and Aimee Moore of club 17

As I write, the winner is yet to be determined.

Sir John Morris Memorial Award

Four contestants entered the competition in 2024, speaking on the theme Materialism. Each speaker engaged, entertained and left the audience with plenty to think about. The Speakers were:

- Spr Anna Andrews, Club 2, Hobart
- Spr Ricky Beswick – Club 8, Hobart
- Spr Lynne Ellis – Club 11, Burnie
- Spr Jill Brasch-Reaney – Clubs 9 & 14, Launceston (2023's Winner)
- At the time of writing, the winner is yet to be determined.

Founder Alan Crook Award

Australian Rostrum was founded in the 1930s by Alan Crook. An Australian who attended University in England and while studying joined Rostrum. Upon his return to Australia, he started the first Australian Rostrum club. Tasmanian Rostrum has an award named after our national creator which recognises the sustainability of a club, impact in the community by that club and the club's support of Rostrum activities external to the club.

In 2022 two clubs applied for the award. The State Council Executive deliberated over the entrants but the announcement is confidential as I write.

Considering the importance of the three focus areas of the award, I do encourage all Clubs to strive for the award in the future.

The Not to Be Silent Award

This award is presented in honour of Fmn Malcolm Grant to an eligible member by their club using criteria that include:

- Regular attendance and participation
- Leadership – debates, speaking competitions, mentoring
- Support of Rostrum activities – RVOY, State Council, ARC, Wordpower, training
- Involvement in community organisations
- Speech presentation at non—Rostrum forums
- Media coverage
- Mentoring for communication skills outside Rostrum

While submissions for this award were previously assessed by State Council Executive, after a rule change in 2021, this year the submission were assessed by the State President and two previous winners of the competition.

In 2022 the Not To Be Silent Award was presented to Burnie Club 11's Fmn Tess McDonagh.

Tess has been instrumental in the continued success of Rostrum and RVOY on the north west coast. Tess has held every position imaginable at Club 11 and is a strong ambassador for Tasmanian Rostrum.

On an annual basis Tess coordinates the North West regional final of the Voice of Youth and is a strong support and regular adjudicator at the state final.

Tess has organised the professional recording of motions and chairmanship at the Burnie Club and these recordings have gone on to be an essential training tool for Tasmanian Rostrum.

Tess has participated in online debates, twice in the Sir John Morris Memorial Award and has provided valuable support for both the SJMMA and the Novice Speakers competition.

Congratulations Will – thank you for your service.

WordPower

Spr Gai Cunningham took on the role of WordPower Editor for 2024 and produced excellent editions. WordPower is our primary tool for communicating what's happening in our clubs and in Tasmanian Rostrum overall. Please contribute as much as you can.

RVOY

One of the most important endeavours that Tasmanian Rostrum undertakes each year is our state's facilitation of the Rostrum Voice of Youth. RVOY isn't just a public speaking competition, it's our opportunity to influence, mentor and increase the confidence of young people from all over the state.

This year's competition was a big success, with thanks to our State Coordinator, Jenny Fraser the volunteers who assisted her.

Please see Fmn Jenny's report.

Acknowledgements

There are a number of Members that need to be thanked.

First of all, every member of State Council, but particularly our Jim McCormack Jenny Fraser, and Rod Fraser, Jill Brasch-Reaney, (also State Treasurer) and Martin Stone. Without such a hard-working team, Tasmanian Rostrum would fall in a heap.

I'd also like to thank the other members of State Training Council for continuing to drive our training program.

Finally, I'd like to thank every member of Tasmanian Rostrum. Your continued participation is essential for our organisation's survival.

Leo Morgan

State President 2024

What is the length of the meeting?

The Meeting duration is one hour. The room is available from 6pm if you want to come and have a chat. Every fourth Thursday in the month is dedicated solely to the speaking program. We do occasionally have a social gathering after the meetings, especially to get to know or farewell members.



30 Alexander St, Burnie, Tasmania
Enter from the rear of the building

What is Rostrum?

Rostrum is a non-profit organisation dedicated to helping its members learn to speak confidently and competently in front of others. If you are interested, you can also learn how to run meetings effectively.

**Your growth as a communicator
is Rostrum's number one
priority.**

This Club can:

- Teach you how to communicate effectively
- Perfect your self-expression when speaking in public
- Teach you how to run efficient formal and informal meetings
- Develop your self-confidence



Burnie Rostrum

When: Thursdays, 6:30pm to 7:30pm
(February to early December)

Where: Burnie Library, Platypus Room
or via Zoom

Cost: full membership \$ 60. Student
membership \$ 27.

Contacts:

Secretary:

Tess McDonagh

Ph: 0428 717 382

Email: t.mcdonagh@bigpond.com

Treasurer and Training Officer:

Gai Cunningham

Ph: (03) 6431 9135

Email: Rostrum.GC@gmail.com

For more information, visit

www.rostrum.com.au/club/rostrum-club-11

Will I be assigned a mentor?

Once you join you will be assigned a mentor who will provide you with additional support outside of the meeting. This may be a friendly email to see if you understand what is required of you with regard to a speaking exercise or if you want to change the frequency of how often you are programmed to speak. You can also discuss any other Club related issues you may have.

Are members expected to attend every meeting?

The short answer is no, however, the more regularly you attend the more you will reap the benefits of being a member. By attending regularly you will also enjoy listening to, and learning from, the presentations of other members covering subjects that will inform, amuse and make you think. You will also be exposed to different chairmanship styles.

Will I be asked to speak?

You are entitled to, and will be encouraged to speak. A specially trained member of the club will give you advice and assistance to improve your speech structure and presentation. However, you are also entitled to decline until you feel confident to speak.

It is important that you feel supported and comfortable in the Rostrum environment.

Does Rostrum have a training program?

Rostrum has a training program, 'Frontiers'. 'Frontiers' helps speakers overcome nervousness, think more logically, improve presentation skills, meaning you get more enjoyment out of speaking before others. The program is divided into three levels: basic, intermediate and advanced. When you join Rostrum you will be given a 'Frontiers' manual. Each time you are rostered to present a 'Frontiers' activity, an accredited coach will provide you with feedback. You will then be asked to complete the self-evaluation section associated with the activity.

Can I attend a Rostrum meeting as a visitor?

It is recommended that you attend several times as a visitor before applying for membership to enable you to make certain that Rostrum is providing what you're looking for.

What will Rostrum do for me?

Through increased confidence and competence, you will be able to make presentations to groups, deliver well-structured speeches at any occasion, improve your chances of obtaining a job and job promotion, introduce and thank guests at functions, argue a position and take an active part in all types of meetings and learn to act as a competent chairman.

As the title infers, this certainly, was an Expo of Everything. On Saturday the 7th. September the Devonport City Council offered all groups the opportunity to Showcase their various activities, which included the many that were available to both the Elderly the Young and everyone in between. Amongst the various floors of the Centre were Clubs representing the Scout Association of Tasmania, Cases of the most amazing Stick Insects, Belly Dancing and Musical Groups.

The various social help organizations were available for Advice and Support. Burnie Rostrum Club No11 had been allocated a Wonderfully Visible Exhibition Space. This we increased and were able, to our awareness in both Adult Meetings and our Continued support of Freeman Tess McDonagh, by using Both our Signage Items, plus our newly designed Club brochure courtesy of one of our newest members our very own Tech Wizard Dane Stredwick, a very talented young man.

Being given the opportunity to do a 10 minute Oral presentation, Fmn Tess chose to highlight the different Meeting Procedures and their relevance in Modern Life, explaining how so many are often persuaded to join Parent Teachers Committees etc. totally unaware of the legalities that are the requirements of many Clubs, and the need to put together a well thought out Motion to enable the Clubs to function within the many hidden laws that we are not aware of, and that we are taught within the Realm of Rostrum through our Frontiers Program – not forgetting to add the Burnie Rostrum Club has special Social Night. Having the added bonus of The Burnie Libraries Meeting room facilities and with it the opportunity to provide a Zoom meeting for those who are unable to make the meetings.

I believe that this was by far the best way a Club can market itself to the wider Public, and urge other Clubs to accept such offers if they arise.

Yours in Rostrum. Speaker Lynne Ellis



Sprs Rod Walker and Lynne Ellis at their stall with the new Brochures

Meet our newest Freeman, Will Cassidy.

On July 27th 2024, The National President Jenny Blain presented Will Cassidy with his Freemanship.



Will has been a member of Tasmanian Rostrum since 2008. During that time he has been Club 9 President seven times, Northern VP three times, and State President in 2021 and 2022.

His other roles include Zone Webmaster, Wordpower editor and Club Delegate. Will has been an accredited coach since 2017 and applied those skills both within the Club, community and particularly through his involvement in Rostrum Voice of Youth where he has adjudicated at regional, state and National levels. He has also participated in inter club debates and debate adjudication.

Will has received many accolades during his time in Rostrum. In 2020 he received a bronze medallion. In 2014 and 2017 he won the Sir John Morris Speaking Award and in 2023 he won the Sidney Wicks National speaking final. In 2024 he was selected to chair the zone and National online speaking competitions.

Will has positively contributed to his community, club, region, zone and nationally and we are delighted that he has been recognised as our newest Freeman.

Club 3's Hagiography Competition



One of the more unusual traditions that has grown up in Rostrum is the Hagiography Competition in Club 3. It is held periodically and the rules do change, but when the competition was held in November this year, contestants were asked to give a four-minute speech that included the word 'hagiography'. In keeping with tradition, the winner, Louise Bloomfield, was presented with a jar of jam.

Louise Bloomfield (right) being presented with the jar of jam by Sally Chandler.

Rostrum Voice of Youth National Final 2024

The 50 - year milestone for Rostrum Voice of Youth was celebrated in Hobart in the last weekend in July 2024.

The special occasion was recognised with a Reception at Government House. Although Her Excellency was unable to attend due to illness, Professor Chalmers AO addressed the group and National President, Jenny Blain, presented a copy of The Anthology.

The following day Her Excellency, the Honourable Barbara Baker AC and Professor Chalmers attended the short notice section of the National Final held in the Farrall Centre at The Friends' School and presented the trophies and certificates to the participants. The two winners were from South Australia:

Junior winner: Aoijin Chen and Senior winner: Katherine Morrison

All eight finalists, representing NSW (Jimmy de Flamingh and James Peate), Victoria (Sia Khullar and Bailey Mackie), South Australia (Aoijin Chen and Katherine Morrison) and Tasmania (Caitlyn Nguyen and Katie Johnson) were wonderful representatives. Their positivity and prowess as public speakers was clearly evident throughout the weekend. Their parents and teachers were very supportive and appreciative of our efforts throughout the weekend.

The feedback sheets were overwhelmingly positive.

'A wonderful and welcoming weekend. Thank you, Jenny, for offering our students such a fabulous experience and for embracing and entertaining all of us as well. I can only imagine the admin involved and I wanted you to know it was warmly valued.' NSW teacher

The parents and teachers were very appreciative of the supporters' program and although this added to the workload, there were benefits to take away the competitive element of the competition and have the group gel as a cohesive group. Some of the activities included mini golf, ten pin bowling, an Italian evening, visit to Salamanca Market and Richmond and a 50-year Anniversary Dinner.

Rostrum Voice of Youth is truly about teamwork. We are all volunteers, doing our best for the students. The coordinators make it happen but without the goodwill of the hundreds of volunteers the program would falter. We need to recognise the support of the ARC to ensure that the continuation of the program for the mutual benefit of its members and the opportunities it provides for the participating students. I am also very grateful to all the Tasmanian volunteers from our MC's – Linda Benneworth (Club 14) and Jack Oates Pryor (the 2021 senior Tasmanian winner), the adjudicators, short notice team, ushers, afternoon tea hosts, our bus drivers – The McCormack brothers, tellers and publicity team.

A 50-year history of Rostrum Voice of Youth was compiled with contributions from all the zones. This has been uploaded to the National RVOY website so if you would like to read it click on the link:

[Rostrum Voice of Youth 50 years of stories - Rostrum Australia](#)

The 2024 National Final Hobart



The finalists at Government House



The finalists with Jenny Fraser



National senior winner - Katherine



National junior winner - Aojin



Activities: Ten pin bowling



Mini golf



50 year Anniversary Dinner - Rydges



Presentation of gold medallion by
Jenny Blain to National Coordinator, Jenny Fraser

Finalists and their families



The National finalists at Richmond



ROSTRUM VOICE OF YOUTH

Position vacant:

2025 - Southern Coordinator

2026 - Tasmanian Coordinator

Three key benefits of accepting one of these roles

1. Be part of a team working with members and volunteers from around the zone and nation who have a similar interest.
2. Develop new skills – computer skills, organisation, invoicing, publicity.....
3. A community service providing our youth with a platform to have their voices heard.

Role description:

Southern Coordinator (A mentor will be provided)

1. Liaise with the teachers, sponsors and host school in your region
2. Seek and coordinate the volunteers in your region to conduct the Southern Regional Final (Adjudicators, timekeepers, chairman, short notice team etc)
3. Prepare the program
4. Thank you letters to be sent to those involved.

State Coordinator

Work with a team:

The aim is to have a regional coordinator in the Nth, Sth and NW

A volunteer to liaise with the schools/registrations

A treasurer to invoice the schools

November:

1. Send an email to all schools in the zone updating the contact teacher details.
2. Update the web page with the new topics (provided) and details of dates & venues
3. Contact the sponsors
4. Test the registration system

January:

Send an email to schools with the details of dates, venues, topics etc.

March: Reminder email sent to schools

April: Closing date for entries

Liaise with Regional Coordinators - forward short notice topics (provided)

April/May: Assist with Regional Finals

June: Coordinate the State Final

July: Chaperone the winners to the National Final (last weekend in July)

If you would like to find out more, please contact Jenny Fraser 0417 160 707 jenny.fraser444@hotmail.com A working with Vulnerable People card is required.

Having been in the role for the past 20 years I am keen to mentor the southern coordinator and the new 2026 State Coordinator to ensure a smooth transition.



ROSTRUM VOICE OF YOUTH

2025

Coordinators: NW Tess McDonagh, Nth/State/National: Jenny Fraser

South- Coordinator needed.

Key dates for 2025 (venues to be confirmed)

Feb: Follow up email to schools confirming dates, venues and registration procedures.

April 2nd: Closing date for entries

April 10th: Burnie Final – Marist Regional College, 6.30pm

May 3rd: Southern Final , Hobart Juniors 9.30 Seniors 1.00pm

May 10th: Northern Final, Launceston Juniors 9.30 Seniors 1.00pm

June 14th: State Final, Launceston 1.00pm

July 26th: National Final, Adelaide. (Vic, SA/NT, NSW & Tas)

2025 RVOY HEAT/ REGIONAL FINAL TOPICS

JUNIOR PREPARED TOPICS (Years 7-9)

1. I CARE
2. BRING BACK THE MAGIC
3. BREAK THE CYCLE
4. FROM LITTLE THINGS...
5. STEPPING STONES

SENIOR PREPARED TOPICS (Years 10-12)

1. TIME FOR REFLECTION
2. COPING WITH CHANGE
3. BEHIND THE SMOKE SCREEN
4. DOING THINGS DIFFERENTLY
5. FRIEND OR FOE

Members and volunteers will be sought in the coming months to assist with the various roles of adjudication, chairmanship, hosting, ushering and short notice competition.

Please mark the dates in your calendar now so that we have the volunteers needed to ensure a successful 2025 competition.

Jenny Fraser(State/National Coordinator)

Let Leo inspire you to use a New Dimension- The QR Code Form

My name is Leo Morgan, and I'm really proud of something.

But if I tell you what it is at the start, you mightn't finish this article. So I'll save that for later. There are some things you need to know before you can understand why I'm proud.

Tasmanian Rostrum Coaches fill out forms on the performance of other Tasmanian Rostrum Coaches. Obviously, if your Club has only one accredited coach there won't be many forms filled out about you! But when there's two or more, you get feedback, from your peers. Which, as with everything in life, helps us get better.

The training council has been distributing these forms to clubs for years. At some point, the clubs and the coaches would gather up the completed forms, and they would be sent to the head of the Training Council, and they would be painstakingly copied into a spreadsheet. Coaches would then be shown the feedback, be able to see what their peers thought of them and see if there is a common weakness identified.

This was great, even if a pain in the neck. And many of the forms got lost between being filled out and being received by the Training Council. We call that form "The Coaches Peer Review Form."

So, in consultation with Martin Stone, we've made a change to the Coaches Peer Review Form. I've added a QR Code to the paper form. This sounds pretty boring. You don't need a QR code to fill out the form if you've already got the paper form in your hand, regardless of the not-very-pretty QR code printed5 on it. Having the QR code on the form isn't the thing I'm proud of.

It's what happens when you use the QR code for the first time that is useful. Because it takes you to an internet-based version of the form, that you can bookmark. And once you've done that, you have an infinite supply of Peer Review forms, that never get lost, and that don't have to be copied into a Spreadsheet. They are so easy to use, that Martin tells me the number of completed forms he receives this way are triple what he used to receive. And, as mentioned, he doesn't have to copy them out.

Well, hold up Leo- some of us aren't clear what a QR code is, or how you use it, or how you bookmark it. These are all fair complaints.

QR Codes are those squares of apparent gibberish that you see about the place advertising 'visit our website'. The letters stand for "Quick Response" Code. When you use a QR Code, it takes you straight to an online form you fill out. (Or fill in, your choice 😊)

So how do you use it? Most commonly, we use it on our mobile phones. It's slightly different between phone models, but basically you turn your phones camera on, look at the QR code through the camera, and the phone will automatically open a program that will show you the internet form (Web Form). The program will be a web browser on your phone; with Apple it will be Safari, and with an Android it will be Google Chrome. If it's different from either of these, you undoubtedly know enough about these things to not need this article.

Still not clear, Leo- how do you bookmark something? ChatGPT says:

Apple (iPhone- Safari):

1. Tap the **Share** button (a square with an upward arrow at the bottom of the screen).
2. Scroll down in the menu and select **Add Bookmark**.
3. Choose the folder (default is Favorites) and tap **Save**.

Android (Google Chrome):

1. Tap the **three dots** menu (usually in the top-right corner).
2. Select **Bookmark** (marked with a star icon).
3. You can find it later in the **Bookmarks** menu.

If that's not clear, find a younger person, hand them your phone, and ask them to bookmark it for you. Or if you don't have a QR peer review form handy, find someone with the online form already on their phone, and ask them to share it with you.

So I've done that... how do I call up the online form another time? Especially if I don't have a paper form with a QR Code on it? It's easy. Open up your phone's web browser. In the address bar, type any of the words 'Coaches', or 'Peer', or 'Review', or even 'form', and it will display a link to the online form. Tap on that and you have the form open on your phone in front of you.

Give it a try. You can put the word 'test' in under the name of the critic being reviewed, just to try it out. Unlimited forms, never lost, not needing to be copied, and providing useful feedback to Rostrum's coaches.

I'm proud of that.

Fmn David Asten Explores

This morning I explored some of my engineering contacts, and came across this note from the Queensland division of the Asset Management Council of Australia.

It caught my eye, as it talked about the importance of communication skills, and catching the attention of the audience.

What can Rostrum offer to this group, and to many other professional organisations? One way is to invite a couple of their officeholders to a well set-up Rostrum meeting to demonstrate what we do, how we encourage members, and how we offer some immediate coaching feedback. Rostrum clubs would not normally offer a 5 week or 10 week course on communication skills for Asset Management but offer coaching across a wider experience. Experiences that Rostrum's Frontiers manual offers in a succinct manner, usually sandwiched into a wider club activity program that touches on many situations in life, such as how to introduce and thank a guest speaker, how to propose a toast, how to conduct a debate, how to reply to a question with little notice.

[Asset Management Council 15,790 followers 18h • 18 hours ago](#)

 **Shaping the Future of the Brisbane Chapter** 
Last night, our Brisbane members came together for the 2025 Planning Workshop, an evening full of collaboration, insightful discussions, and networking.

This was more than just planning - it was about giving our members a voice. Attendees shared their ideas, tackled emerging industry trends, and influenced the direction of our chapter's activities for the year ahead.

Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed their expertise and passion to this important initiative. Your insights ensure that our events remain relevant, impactful, and aligned with the needs of asset-intensive organisations.

Have we a contact with a member of professional organisations like the one above? 2025 could be a year to explore, to invite a couple of guests from a local organisation to our Rostrum club. Put on a good show for them and encourage their members to attend Rostrum for a year to become more confident speakers and presenters.

Dave Asten (Retired Professional Engineer)

State Finals of Rostrum Voice of Youth in Tasmania



Juniors (Above)



Seniors (Above) with Fmn Leo Morgan



Finalists with the Rotary Representative Liz Bowerman and Willow second from the right

Willow Cummins - Wynyard High - Public Speaking Competition Winner

Published: 29 November 2024

Legislative Council, Tuesday 26 November 2024

Ms FORREST (Murchison) - Today, I wish to celebrate the achievements of a remarkable young student from Wynyard High School, Willow Cummins. Willow has achieved an incredible milestone by winning the National Legacy Junior Public Speaking competition held in Ballarat on 18 November. The National Legacy Public Speaking competition is an annual event that aims to promote public speaking skills among young people.

It is organised by Legacy, a charitable organisation dedicated to supporting the families of deceased and incapacitated veterans. The competition provides an opportunity for students to develop their oratory skills, build confidence, and engage with important social and historical topics. Willow is a student from our public education system, having attended Table Cape Primary School before Wynyard High School. She is not only the first Tasmanian public education student to claim this prestigious title, she is the first Tasmanian winner since 2006.

From a young age, Willow showed a natural inclination toward public speaking and a passion for using her voice to create change. Willow says that these interests have been supported by multiple staff members at Wynyard High and Table Cape Primary who opened up many opportunities and encouraged her to continue not just in public speaking, but in other areas as well.

After her win, Willow admitted to The Advocate newspaper that she has always been known as a big talker and always loved standing up and speaking. Willow said public speaking is one of the most common fears, but once you get going, you can talk about anything you like. She also said that her favourite thing about public speaking is that she gets to say exactly what she wants to and no-one can interrupt her; a young woman after my own heart.

Willow travelled to St Patrick's College in Ballarat, Victoria, where the competition was held, and gave her speech, 'To Survive or to Thrive,' which was inspired by the Legacy value of mateship. Her five minute speech explored themes and ideas around how the world has evolved and changed over time. Willow told The Advocate that she came up with the idea after brainstorming the topic with her parents and her drama teacher.

Delivering a two minute impromptu speech was also part of the competition. Competitors were given a topic and only five minutes to prepare the speech before presenting to the judges. She said she took the topic of energy and drew inspiration from the different energies in the classroom.

Willow sees public speaking as not merely an extracurricular activity, but as a platform for her to explore meaningful issues and to connect with others. She describes public speaking as a great way to use your voice to make change. Through this medium, she has found her passion for advocacy and envisions a future that includes studying political science, becoming a human rights lawyer, or engaging in activism. Let us watch this young woman. She also dreams of travelling and volunteering abroad where she can contribute to causes like environmental protection and supporting children in need.

Willow's other achievements are as impressive as they are inspiring. In grade seven she was a regional runner up in the Rostrum Voice of Youth competition. In grade eight she was the Voice of Youth regional winner and state runner up, competing nationally at Parliament House in Adelaide. Now in grade nine, Willow is a regional winner and state runner up of Rostrum Voice of Youth and she won the state Legacy Junior Public Speaking competition held in September before going on to win nationally.

Competing against students from across Australia, she obviously stood out to the judges. Willow's success is a shared achievement with her mentors, Wynyard High School, Table Cape Primary, and our community. She credits much of her growth to the legatees at Legacy, and the members of Rostrum who have guided her through each stage of her public speaking journey.

The principal of Wynyard High, Paul Harding, is very proud of Willow's achievements, noting she is an advocate for public students. Paul also acknowledged the amazing work of the school's dedicated teachers and staff, in particular, drama teacher and public speaking coach, Lix Walker-Speers, who said:

I'm extremely proud of how far she has come, but not surprised. Willow has said yes to every opportunity put to her. She takes on feedback and has shown incredible determination to grow and develop her skills. The content she speaks about is all her. She

enjoys intelligent and rich conversations with people from all walks of life and has shown maturity beyond her years. She sets an example of striving towards goals, persistently working toward them, constantly reassessing, achieving, and setting new ones for herself. This is no different. When I spoke to her not long after her win, one of the first things she said was, 'Now, my next plan is'. Moving forward, I would like to see her using her voice to impact policy change. We would love to see her on the Youth Advisory Board as well as in spaces where her views on equality and inclusion can be shared.

Willow's story is a shining example of what our young people can achieve when given the tools, support, and encouragement they need. Willow said she would also love to encourage other young people to give public speaking a go.

I will close with Willow's own words:

Public speaking is a great way to use your voice to make a change. It has helped me to know what I want to do and where I want to go. I would highly recommend both Rostrum and Legacy to anyone interested in public speaking who would like to share what you are passionate about to like minded people. What's the worst that can happen?



Burnie Rostrum Club (11)

Spr Nicholas Huisman (Above) did his Speech in Orbit exercise 8 selling a product and we learnt not only how to make a golden wheel but what it useful for in one's life.

(Right) Nicholas is presenting Fmn Tess McDonagh, winner of the Intra-Club Memorial Speaking Competition with the trophy. Tess spoke on "Country Shows".



Foundation Alan Crook Award 2024 awarded to Club 9.

Club 9 may be small in number, but their members are certainly achieving at both local, State and National levels.

Freeman Jill Brasch-Reaney accepted the trophy from State President, Freeman Leo Morgan on behalf of Club 9.

At National level Freeman Rod Fraser is the National Rostrum Treasurer, Freeman Jenny Fraser the National Coordinator of Rostrum Voice of Youth and the National Final Convenor. Freeman Will Cassidy chaired the National Online Speaking competition. In 2023 Will was also the National Winner of the Sidney Wicks Public speaking competition and Rod was the National winner of the Online Speaking Competition.

At State level members have been actively engaged supporting all aspects of Rostrum Voice of Youth. Freeman Jill Brasch-Reaney won the SJMMA and has served as State Treasurer and secretary of the Coach Training Committee. Will chaired both the State Online speaking competition and the Anthology presentation function to Senator Askew. As Northern VP Robert Stephens actively supports both northern clubs.

Club 9 members have also been active in the community adjudicating the finals of the Lions Youth of the Year, The Legacy Public Speaking competition and Foundation Oratory Award. Training sessions have been conducted, programs presented on the local radio and lectures at the School for Seniors.

Club 9 weekly meetings are held on zoom with a monthly face to face meeting. Members and guests are encouraged to join in and be part of this highly effective Rostrum Club.



Happenings in Hobart on 30 November 2024



Fmn Leo Morgan presented the "Not to be Silent" books to Spr Lynne Ellis and Spr Zona Wu who purchased the last two.



(Left to Right) Sprs Zoe Dong (C17); Cris Tavares (C2); Aimee Moore (C17); Thea Qassrani (C3); Zona Wu (C17) contestants in the Novice Speakers Competition giving a 6 minute speech on one of these topics, "Unwanted Gift", "Rules of the Gym", "Remote Work"



Congratulations Spr Cris Tavares winner of the Novice Speakers Competition with Fmn Leo Morgan



(L-R) Contestants for SJMMA Fmn Jill Brasch-Reaney (Club 9), Sprs Ricky Beswick (Club 8), Lynne Ellis (Club 11) and Anna Andrews (Club 2) spoke on "Materialism"



Congratulations Spr Ricky Beswick, winner of the Sir John Morris Memorial Award

THE RETURN OF THE WANDERING DEBATING TROPHY

Spring has sprung, well at least that is what the weather Department is telling us – so it is time for clearing out that mountain of unwanted paperwork, shredding a further year of your Taxation documents and, oh yes, you may perchance come across an item of buried treasure, accompanied by the exclamation, “Oh that’s where it has been hiding these past months.”



In the case of the above, the trophy held in the centre by Speaker Rod Walker, a previous member of the Wynyard Rostrum Club and flanked by Freeman Tess McDonagh (R) and Speaker Gai Cunningham (L); this was discovered in the home of the late Speaker Richard Morriss by his Daughter. The Trophy was awarded. Richard was an amazing Gentleman – especially within all manner of Oratory applications. I learned so much from the man who had a “Chocolate Box Voice”, Smooth, Deep and Mellow. The trophy was awarded to the Winning Rostrum Team following the yearly debate between the Burnie and Wynyard Rostrum Clubs. Claire (sorry, no last name) contacted me and offered to deliver the trophy to my home in Sheffield. Unfortunately, I was dealing with my

second case of Covid 19, and so we arranged for her to put the bag containing the trophy on our gatepost, where Colin would then retrieve it. We only had a brief conversation on the telephone but I expressed the Gratitude of Club 11, and the wider Rostrum Community. It really is important that we are made aware of the whereabouts of these pieces of our Rostrum History.

The writer has to wonder about how many others may be hiding in the corners of our darkest closets, maybe behind the unwanted clutter you are intending to move to your local Charity shop one day – “Oh Lord”, it doesn’t bare thinking about.

Act now! Spring has sprung and it’s de-cluttering time again!

Spr Lynne Ellis

His Legacy Lives on

Years ago, I met Spr David Clive when he visited Club 11. We were putting spare change into the koala tin for sponsorship of the Eisteddfod, with the object of giving the students a cash prize.

He stated often, "Don't give cash. Give a trophy that can be labelled and won each year and will be valued by the recipient."

This year, 2024, we were reacquainted with the historical trophy that David Clive used when he ran Rostrum Voice Of Youth to the Primary Schools of Burnie between 1980 and 1995. Montello Principal, Dion McCall, rang me and said, "Due to renovations at the school, they have been cleaning out the cupboards and found this Rostrum Trophy." He wondered what we wanted done with it. At the Meeting on 26 September, 2024, the Club decided to keep it.

Among the winners of it were Burnie Primary, Acton Primary, Marist, Stella Marist and Montello Primary where it came to rest.

So thank you David Clive for all your hard work. Your Legacy lives on.

This Trophy belongs in a museum where interested citizens can identify their name on the plaques.

Burnie Primary School 1980 C. Ivey

Chris Ivey BPS 1981

C. Zidak Acton Primary School 1983

Megan Matthews BPS 1983

Ruth McPhie BPS 1984

1985 BPS Grant Maynard

Kelly Madden Marist College

Glen Miles Burnie Primary

Shoba Krishnan BPS 1987

1988 Heidi Adams Marist College

Patrick Dixon Marist

Benedict Bray Stella Maris

1990 Patrick Dixon Marist

1991 Brock Kerslake Marist

Meredith Collins 1992 Montello Primary School

MPS Grade 5 1994 Amy Collins

Montello Primary School in 1995 Amy Collins

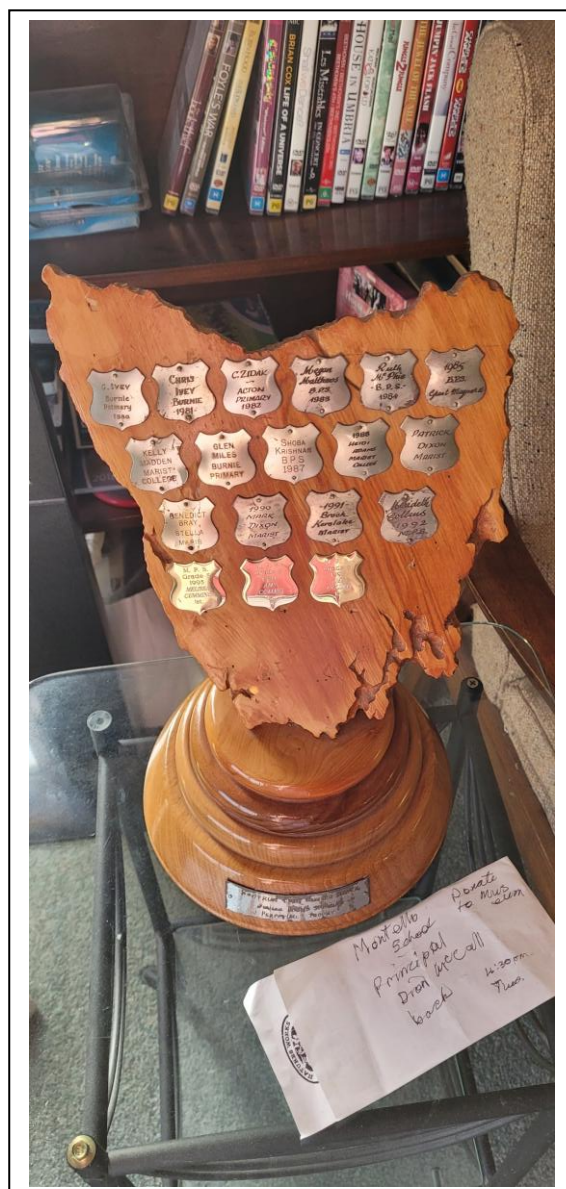
On the bottom of the Trophy, it is not easily discernable

Rostrum Club Number Eleven

Junior Public Speaking

Perpetual Trophy

1980 – 1995 Burnie, Acton, Marist, Stella Marist, Montello



Northern News

Clubs 9 and 14 in Launceston combined for a meeting at Tatler Lane by Sweetbrew to celebrate Christmas and the Trevor Colquhoun Humorous Speaking competition. The winner this year was Freeman Rod Fraser who spoke on some of his humorous experiences as a member of Rostrum over the past 50 years. Jill Brasch-Reaney presented Freeman Will Cassidy with the 2024 Not to be Silent Award, honouring the memory of Freeman Malcolm Grant OAM BA. Jill also presented the Founder Alan Crook Award to Club 9 President and Northern VP, Robert Stephens.



Gold Medallion Presentation

At the 50th year Celebration dinner of Rostrum Voice of Youth, Jenny Fraser was awarded a Gold Medallion by the National President, Jenny Blain for her services to Rostrum Voice of Youth.

Jenny's connection with RVOY started when she was a teacher at Scotch Oakburn College. Between the years of 1990 and 2014 Jenny had the honour of coaching 29 State finalists, 10 National Finalists and 3 National winners - Sefton Warner (1998), William Lester (2000) and Kate Fraser (2002) with Amy Cleland coming third in 1994.

After joining Rostrum in 1998, it wasn't long before Jenny became involved in the administration of RVOY. Since the year 2000 she has been the Northern Tasmanian regional coordinator. In 2006 she succeeded Freeman Malcolm Grant as the State Coordinator and has continued in that role ever since. She has been National Coordinator for 9 years and has been National Final convenor three times in 2012 and 2019 and 2024.

Jenny has had the support of a loyal group of Rostrum members who have ensured the continued success of the RVOY program but in particular her husband Rod who has been with her every step of the way. We are very proud that Jenny is a member of our Club!

Wendy Webster (Club 14 President)

Club 2 Christmas Break-up Awards



(Left to Right): Sprs Cris Tavares, Winner of Novice Speakers' Competition, Anna Andrews Winner of Club 2's Spr Charles Lewis Trophy for the most improved Speaker, Fmn Jim McCormack Co-winner Tony Haig award for the biggest stirrer, Spr Bella McPherson Winner of the Brian Marks Award for most improved Chairman, Fmn Martin Stone Co-Winner of the Tony Haig award for the biggest stirrer and the winner of the Fmn Geoff Sorell Award for Club Service

CALENDAR FOR 2025

Feb State Council AGM and General Meeting

Apr 2 Entries Close RVOY

Apr 10 NW RVOY Regional Final

May 3 Southern final RVOY

May 10 Northern Final RVOY

June 14 State Final RVOY Launceston

June 30 DEADLINE for Wordpower Edition 96

July 26 National Final RVOY in Adelaide SA

Thank you to all the Members of Rostrum Tasmania who contributed to this Newsletter. When I send out the initial request email, I wait with baited breath as articles begin to trickle in. Do you realize you are writing your History of 2024, a moment in time when your story took place. It may never happen again. Well done Everyone! Ed.

DEADLINE WORDPOWER Editions 96 June 30 2025



Season's Greetings

