

STOP PRESS... Inaugural Meetings in Brisbane and Maryborough have been planned to coincide with Lionel and Alans visit.



For Continuing
Fellowship

ROARING 40'S

Official Newsletter of Apex 40

WHOS WHO!

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IN THIS ISSUE.

1. Next Dinner - Keysborough Thursday April 22nd.
2. Extension Tour.
3. Roaring Rorters Rapturous Revels
4. Adjudicators Panel
5. Carl Anderson.
6. In Passing.

1. NEXT DINNER:

DATE: Thursday April 22nd, 1976 (Thursday after Easter)

PLACE: Keysborough Hotel/Motel TIME: 7 p.m.
Cheltenham Road, Keysborough.

BOOKINGS: By April 20th please to the Secretary.

Bus. 86 5734
Home. 735 1675

(Apologies for the change of date which should have been April 7th. However, due to a number of reasons, the main one being that your silly looking Secretary - overlooking the fact that a year is now 9 months duration instead of the 12 months before his 'change of life',

2. EXTENSION TOUR:

No.3 Branch - "Darwin" held their inaugural meeting on Thursday March 11th with 6 men and 6 women. President - Keith Funnell. No.3 Branch has been sponsored by, and mainly due to the hard work by Arafura Apex Club under President Ian Geer.

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Roaring 40's is published by Apex 40 to inform members of current events.

On Saturday May 1st your learned Colleagues, Lionel Mussell and Alan Kinder take off by car for a 10 day trip around Australia. I have it direct from these fellows that the principle reason for their trip is to spread the word! Their itinerary says that they first travel to Roy Ridley's Country at Forbes, then on to Dave Rose and Peter Dawson Country in Brisbane, followed by a visit to Maryborough and Brian Hodges Country. Meetings of interested members are being arranged in these towns to coincide with the visit of Lionel and Alan, and hopefully some more Apex 40 Branches are about to eventuate.

3. ROARING RORTERS RAPTUROUS REVELS.

This is the title of an article written by President Lionel on our "Roaring Rort" and forwarded to the Editor of Apexian for inclusion in the next issue, we hope. However, for the record, the following is an eye witness account of this "Rorty" weekend held at Ballarat on March 12 - 14th.

This of course was our first ever "Roaring Rort" and more than eighty members and families gathered at Ballarat to have a thoroughly enjoyable time. The weekend was an outstanding success and undoubtedly the forerunner of many and more grand "Rorts".

On their arrival in Ballarat, everybody - fathers, mothers, sons and daughters all received their own show bag (Convention first) containing all sorts of useless and useful things.

The weekend got under way with a Friday evening social where the "Rort Band" made its first ever appearance, Viola Ritchie on piano, Alan Kinder on drums and Lionel Mussell on trumpet and trombone.

Early Saturday morning Fred Margetts set up his Printing Factory in his Motel suite, printing Tee-shirts "Roaring Rort- Ballarat 1976". Don't know what the other motel guests, or the motel owners thought to see this constant stream of people, all shapes and sizes, disappear into this room and come out a little later looking very pleased with themselves. Incidentally, save your Tee-shirts, these will become collectors items with the proposed change in the official emblem.

Also early on the Saturday a busload of "Rorters" departed for a tour of Best's winery at Great Western and, after partaking of a generous tasting of the product, made the day for the host - owner Mr. Thompson - by singing happy birthday to him. The group had been "tipped-off" by his daughter earlier in the morning.

The bus had difficulty moving off, the back springs were really extended supporting the extra weight loaded into the baggage compartment.

After a hearty lunch at Ararat it was time for song - Lionel just happened to have thrown his trumpet aboard and the mutilation of all the old songs had to be heard to be believed.

During the trip Extension Chairman Alan Kinder penned the words of the immortal "Rort Song" which has now become a tradition at Apex 40 functions.

It goes to the tune of "Men of Harlech" (familiar tune?) and these are the words:

"We who are the Roaring Rorters,
Fathers, Mothers, Sons and Daughters,
Over Forty is our claim -
and Rorting is our game."

Saturday evening was the dinner-dance at the Kiosk on the edge of Lake Wendouree. Proceedings started in a solemn manner? with everybody upstanding singing the "Rort Song" - with accompaniment by the Kiosk Organist.

A number of congratulatory telegrams, letters, phone calls were received, including greetings from the incoming Association P.R. Chairman David Cotton, Hank Schiller our P.N.G. member, members of No.3 Darwin Branch just formed, and many many others.

Fines session was led by Ernie Butler. There would be few members of World Council who have not met Ernie Butler. Ern was the star at the Saturday evening dinner/dance when he told of his exploits in Hong Kong.

It seems Ern was in grave need of the toilet after a very heavy evening, opened the wrong door in his hotel room and found himself in the corridor, locked out of the room and completely starkers. In Ern's own words he is not a pretty sight in the raw.

Leila Margetts assisted in the fines session. She introduced several of her fines - I would like to have President Lionel on his feet. We also learnt that Col. Speirs does not believe in wearing pyjamas, and we also learnt of the terrible story about Ian Goff. I daren't repeat it here, but you will remember the story about the snake charmer and the pyjama cord.

Audrey McInnes made her mark in history when in the middle of the dance floor she decided to stand on her head. It appears that the Wall Paper was up-side-down, and of course all our lady members had to check. Quite a moment! The organist who did a fantastic job all evening, did not lose a note.

From the Kiosk we staggered to the Motel for a pool-side party. Ernie Butler, John Ritchie and others who were in no condition to know better, went for a swim. Around 2 a.m. the Motel Manager became a little concerned for us. Very nice of him actually. It appears, that on the best of evidence available, the Springs who had retired early, decided to lodge a complaint. Their turn will come...

4. SERIOUS AT LAST

The weekend did have its serious side however, and more than sixty Members assembled on the Sunday morning - a particularly inspiring achievement after the 2 a.m. pool-side party, to discuss Apex 40 business and consider a request from the Apex International Board that the name and Official Emblem be changed.

A great deal of serious discussion was given to this request and a number of motions and amendments were defeated before finally and reluctantly it was decided to compromise by eliminating the word APEX altogether from the emblem, while retaining the name Apex 40 as is.

It was felt that "oldies" and even worse - "ladies" wearing the name Apex was the main stumbling block preventing International Board recognising Apex 40 as the Official Organisation for past Apexians.

A number of Apex Clubs - particularly in Zone 12 where Apex 40 has been recognised officially since 1973 - are rumoured to be putting forward District Convention Agenda Items which seek Association recognition at the 1977 Association Convention.

"WHERE NOW?"

Co-Founder Neil Hockey presented a thought-provoking paper on what he felt to be the future for Apex 40 and this sparked a great deal of discussion. The consensus being that Apex 40 should continue to be primarily an organisation for retaining and fostering friendships made in Apex.

EXTENSION.

Chairman Alan Kinder reported on the successful formation of the Apex 40 Branch of Darwin - sponsored by the Arafura Apex Club.

He also told of the official appointment of Roy Ridley of Forbes as Apex 40 Co-ordinator for Zone 9 - this being an active promotion of Apex 40 by Zone President, Dale Fletcher.

Tasmania was represented at the Rort by four members of the Devonport Branch - Secretary David Mansfield and Bet and Jock Little and Jennie.

South Gippsland Branch has an interim Committee and Joe Tanner is moving to form a Branch in East Gippsland. There are further moves in Queensland with the first Queensland Branch expected within weeks.

HE WILL WALK.

When President, Lionel Mussell announced that he would walk in the Community Aid Abroad's "Walk Against Want" in April, he quickly obtained sponsorships for more than \$100.00 - all he has to do is walk - and collect!

5. NEXT RORT IN TASSIE

An offer by the Tassie contingent to host next year's rort was unanimously accepted and some Members have already opened bank accounts to save for the trip which will be held on the 12th, 13th and 14th March, 1977.

The weekend concluded with a relaxing picnic in the Botanical Gardens in glorious sunshine and unabated thirst.

6. There seems no doubt whatsoever that Apex 40 is here to stay and must grow from strength to strength following this most successful event organised by "Rorty John" Davies and his willing team.

The only question that remains is why wasn't it thought of earlier?

ADJUDICATORS PANEL

Panel Chairman, Barry Preston is proposing to forward to Zone 12 Secretary, a copy of our membership list, for forwarding Zone 12 Clubs. Clubs wishing to obtain an Adjudicator may follow up direct with members.

CARL ANDERSON

Following our successful Painting Evening at Barry Preston's home last November, we received from Carl Anderson a cheque for \$60 for Apex Service Work. \$60 being the gallery commission normally due on the sale of paintings that evening. The \$60 was forwarded to the Association Secretary to be used on the N.S. Service project.

IN PASSING:

The young executive had taken over \$100,000 from his Company's safe and had lost it playing the stock market; he was certain to be discovered. In addition his beautiful wife had left him.

Down to the river he went and was just clambering over the bridge railing when a gnarled hand fell upon his arm. He turned and saw an ancient crone in a black cloak, with wrinkled face and stringy grey hair. "Don't jump" she rasped, "I'm a witch, and for a slight consideration, I'll grant you three wishes."

"I'm beyond help," he replied, and told her his troubles.

"Nothing to it", she said, cackling. "Alakazam! Your wife is home waiting for you with love in her heart. Alakazam! You now have a personal bank account of two hundred thousand dollars!". The man, stunned to speechlessness, was finally able to ask, "What...what is the consideration I owe you?".

"You must spend the night making love to me", she smiled toothlessly. The thought of making love to the old crone repulsed him, but it was certainly worth it, he thought. Together they retired to a nearby motel, and in the morning, the distasteful ordeal over, he was dressing to go home when the old bat in the bed asked, "Say, sonny, how old are you?" "Im 42 years old," he said. "Why?". "Ain't you a little old to believe in witches?".