

ROARING 40's

July 1996



FOR CONTINUING FELLOWSHIP

Apex 40 is the recognised body of
Affiliated Past Apexians' Groups

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome to the 21st Annual Rort of Apex 40, although we are now nearly 23 years old (ie. the meeting at Mornington was 8th July 1973). This year it is great to have a Rort hosted by a relatively new club, and special thanks must go to Chairperson Marian Clark, Secretary Niel Nielson and their band of willing helpers. A total registration of just on 155, with 18 clubs in attendance together with some "at large" members – WELCOME ALL.



President Garth wearing his "Chain of Office".

It is also pleasing to have 6 out of the 11 past National Presidents at this Rort including our Foundation President Lionel Mussell. It is however with deep regret that I advise this

Rort that our Past National President Ern Butler passed away on Thursday 30th May; there was a write up on Ern in the last edition of our Roaring 40's and I know you share with me in passing on our condolences to Jessie and Ern's family. Ern was a great man who gave a lot to Apex and Apex 40, and will be fondly remembered for his keen sense of humour and that clear message at a Rort to get attention – the loud stamp of a foot and the "will you shut-up". This year as far as the National Executive was concerned started off a little slowly, as our production manager and put it together supervisor Alan Padgham was getting over an operation and some post operation problems. However we are pleased to have Alan back on deck and present at this Rort, together with the Godfather of Apex 40 Alan Kinder who is our Editor. I am sure you agree the standard of the Roaring 40s is excellent and as the 2 Alan's say, 'send us photo's, send us your newsletter or write us a note'.

As I mentioned in our May "Roaring 40's we have been in contact with the Apex Foundation on several occasions and forwarded all clubs some information on their National Golf Tournament (Australia's only). Apex has moved to new headquarters, and recently while in Adelaide I was pleased to meet Executive Director Andrew Phillips, who has indicated he will send us a list of Life Members

and those members coming up for retirement in June; this should give Clubs an extra means of contact. Your National Executive Team have reported in this Annual Report, and thanks must go to Brian, Glenn, Kevin and the Two Alans for their support and contribution. Internationally we are starting to get known via N.Z. 41 and Kin 40, and a special thanks to Kevin Huxham for his effort. In an organisation the size of ours communication is an important aspect, and payment of your per capita is a necessary evil if we are to maintain that contact (NB – maximum fee is \$50 per club and hasn't changed in 12 years). These per capita not only cover day to day running but also purchase of Stick pins, Name Badges, Apex 40 Banners, Car stickers, pamphlets on Apex 40 and Copies of Constitution, all of which are available from your Executive – let them know what you need. Apex 40 is the only recognised Past Apexians group by Apex, and we pay them 10% of our per capita for the use of our symbol. During the past several years we have maintained a good rapport with their Executive and the Apex Foundation.

Remember our aim is to assist Apex when called upon and to continue the fellowship formed in Apex.

GOOD RORTING!

Garth Whitchurch

NATIONAL SECRETARY/ TREASURER'S REPORT

As National Secretary of Apex 40 for the past 12 months, a growing concern of mine is the lack of communication between the affiliated Clubs of Apex 40 to the National Board; all that is needed is a simple letter. (ie. to keep us up to date with the latest address of your secretary and your contact 'phone number, so that our mailing list is not out of date). A Club Secretary moves house or leaves the Club and communication is lost!

It also seems some Clubs are failing to reproduce the Roaring 40's for their members to keep them informed. Our Editor and his team have spent considerable time compiling the newsletter, with the aim being that it is passed on to all members. (Note – cost precludes us from sending a copy for all members, the latest Roaring 40's 'cost of production' at around \$280 has not been included in annual accounts).

While contact with the Apex National Executive was initially difficult, no doubt caused by their move to South Australia, we have been successful in contacting Executive Director Andrew Phillip, and hope that we can now keep our lines of communication open, and even improve on them.

I had the privilege to be guest speaker at an Apex mixed dinner, where four members of the Club were coming up

for retirement, to talk about Apex 40. It was agreed that a new Club will be formed by them and their wives.

To me this seems an excellent opportunity for us (as members of Apex 40) to promote in our own area, and be a guest speaker at an Apex Club, be it our original Club or another Club.

You will note in the financials that this year, after taking out our donation to Apex Foundation, the payment of Rort deposit and our last newsletter cost, we would have a slight surplus over receipts despite being down on affiliation fees; the latter being most important if we are to promote Apex 40.

Good Rorting to you all.

Brian Roach.

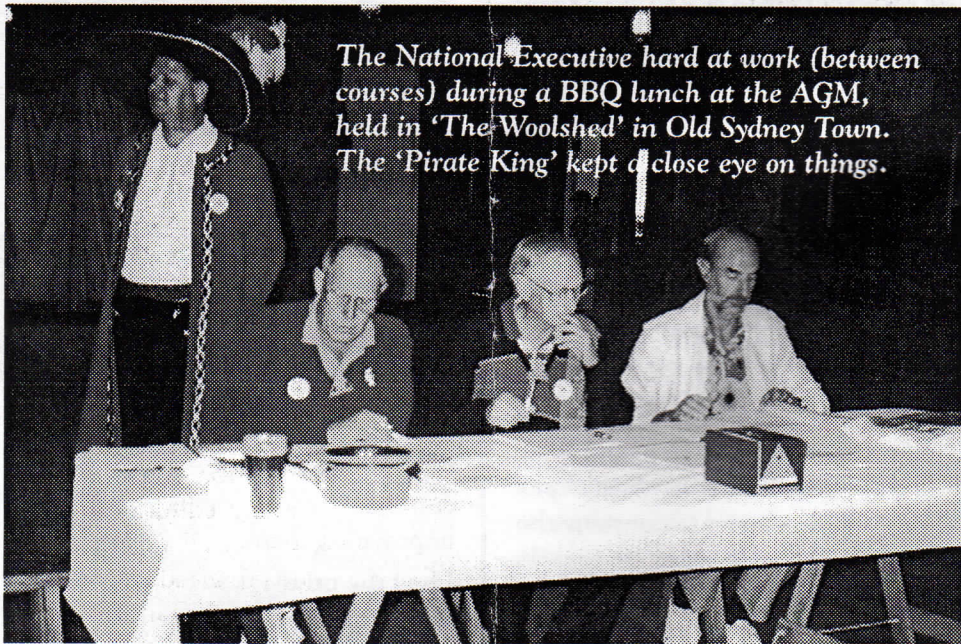
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REPORT

During the 1993 Apex 40 South African tour. we were besieged by our hosts wanting to come on a proposed Australian tour. The tour did eventuate in January this year, but only one couple arrived.

They were hosted by Wynnum Manly, Alstonville and Melbourne/Gippsland clubs.

N.Z. 41 Tour Europe

Round Table 41 New Zealand has tour departing N.Z. July 30, which is both home hosted and hotels through Singapore to Greece, Italy, Turkey, Rhodes, Cypress, Israel and Egypt; returning to N.Z. September 16. Cost is N.Z. \$10,450 per person.



The National Executive hard at work (between courses) during a BBQ lunch at the AGM, held in 'The Woolshed' in Old Sydney Town. The 'Pirate King' kept a close eye on things.

Kin 40 Tour to Australia

Our Canadian counterpart organisation is planning a tour to Australia November 5 to 16 before flying on to N.Z. We have offered to home host the participants, and will be seeking expressions of interest from clubs in Brisbane, Gold Coast, Northern Rivers, Sydney(?), Canberra(?) and Melbourne. As soon as members are confirmed, I will contact interested clubs for hosting.

1999 Apex 40 Tour to Canada

An itinerary is currently being formulated by a Kamloops travel agent who is a member of Kin 40 and a Rotarian. The tour will be around three weeks duration through the scenic provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, taking in Vancouver Island and the Rockies. A week stopover in the Hawaiian Islands on the way home will give the required rest for participants. The tour will be home hosted and hotels. More details as they come to hand.

Yours in International Friendship and Fellowship,

Kevin Huxham (Alstonville Club)

NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Since we last met in K.L. there have been three clubs formed:

Springvale, Vic.

Grovedale, Vic.

Redcliffe, Qld (re-formed)

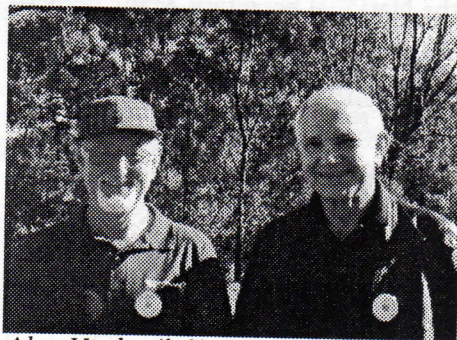
A warm welcome to these clubs and we hope to see many of you at the

Wyong Rort. Apex 40 Malaysia, consisting of 4 clubs, are working on forming an autonomous organisation within Malaysia; this can only be an advantage for all over 40s members throughout the world. To all existing clubs – have a look around your area, there may be other towns that are waiting to form (with a little prompting from your members). The more the merrier!

Glenn Rossiter

ROARING 40'S

Roaring 40's is the official newsletter of Apex 40. It is published usually three times a year as a means of disseminating information about Apex 40 to all members.



Alan Kinder (left) and Alan Padgham

The production team for Roaring 40's is Alan Kinder and Alan Padgham of Melbourne/Gippsland branch; Alan K is responsible for collection and preparation of the editorial material and Alan P puts it all together. The two Alans first produced the newsletter in its present form in 1991, and arranged its production for the next

two years. After that they had a couple of years rest then took on the task once again last year.

Response to the form and content of the newsletter has been positive and the Roaring 40's team hopes that it can continue as a welcome form of communication between and about our many branches. The success of Roaring 40's depends on two things; first, input from the branches and second, the branches ensuring that copies are reproduced and made available to all members.

Unfortunately, input from branches has not been good. Only a small number of branches appear to have put Alan K's name on the mailing list for their own newsletter/dinner notice and some others send them only to the National Secretary. Many branches, however, don't send copies to either. We would appreciate it if you would send a copy direct to Alan Kinder if you don't already do so. Apart from that, we would dearly like to see a much better response to our call for photographs of branch activities and other items of interest – the response so far has been very poor.

On the second matter, we can't afford to produce a copy for every member of the Association without a considerable increase in annual subscriptions; something none of us want in Apex 40 where we seek to keep costs of administration at a nominal level. We are not sure to what extent branches carry out this responsibility. We only

know that many do and we suspect that some don't. If your branch is one of the latter then don't hesitate to get onto your President or Secretary to rectify the situation.

Roaring 40's is for you; please help us to make it worthwhile.

Alan Kinder & Alan Padgham

POST RORT TRIP – A GREAT SUCCESS!

Well, only 15 of us ventured out to explore the Hunter Valley, Western Plains and the Blue Mountains after a great Rort, and we were ably looked after by our hosts Marian & Malcolm Clark, and by our bus driver Stephen, who turned out to be most obliging and helpful.



The Pirate King crushes the hand of the National President to establish his authority during the Rort itself

We left Wyong behind, where they had six inches of rain in as many days after we left, and headed first to have a look at the Munmorah Power Station, situated on the edge of Lake Munmorah. Here Malcolm showed us



Post Rorters on tour, taken whilst at at the Munmorah Power Station

around the vast complex, and into it's hub, to see how a power station works and competes in the open market. Onwards to the popular "Wyndham Estate" winery for a lunch of home made soup and bread, while enjoying a wine tasting; also for some of us, a stocking up of supplies which were depleted during the next few days.

Our first night was spent at the Bridgecourt Motor inn in Muswellbrook, where we started a practise, which continued each night, of getting together after tea for a port and a fines session, the funds of which were used towards our last night celebration.

The second day we headed for Dubbo, and travelled via various back roads through the quaint townships of

Denman, Sandy Hollow and Merriwa. Here we had our usual morning tea break, where our bus driver Stephen, as usual, set out tea and biscuits whilst we all walked around for a break. Our journey continued on to Gulgong, the town pictured on the old ten dollar note, and which also boasts an extensive Museum of the area's past – old horse carts, harvesters, clothing, books, photos, buildings, and an old bank, as well as antique nicknacks used in the old days. After lunch, which for some of us was a good old fashioned pie with real steak and kidney, we headed for the City of Dubbo and a two night stay at the Blue Lagoon Motor Inn, and a rest up for our next day.

Our third day was devoted to 'let's

look at Dubbo', with our first stop being Dubbo's Western Plains Zoo, which is Australia's only official open range zoo. Here we could see all the animals roaming freely around on 280 hectares of parkland, and witnessed a spectacular display by some apes as they swung on their ropes, filling the Park with echoes of their calls. There wasn't much we didn't see, so naturally this took time. Some of us walked, and some of us got on and off the bus as it slowly travelled round and waited for us at every stop. We lunched amongst the birds (feathered kind), including a small rest before we headed off. Next stop was the Old Dubbo Goal, which was closed as a penal institution in 1966 and therefore was in very good order. We saw huge sandstone walls which are a stark reminder of our harsh and often violent past, as well the gallows, and a visual and audio display in each of the important rooms, where a prisoner related his experiences of the past and what he was in goal for.

That night back at our motel, we had tea with Apex Foundation Member and Apexian Tony Peters, who has since organised that National President Garth will talk at the Apex National Convention at Albury in mid July - our communications are certainly improving with Apex.

Our fourth day saw us venture into the townships of Wellington and Molong, then onto Bathurst, where we went for a drive around the Mt

Panorama circuit, which is not as wide as it looks on T.V., is certainly much steeper than we thought, and has houses right on the circuit. After a look around Bathurst and lunch, we were off again, and this time bound for Katoomba in the Blue Mountains. A very steep and windy road, with some marvellous views when we could see through the mist and very low cloud. A trip, for those who were game, on the Scenic Railway and Skyway (cable car) enabled us to catch a glimpse of the Three Sisters despite the heavy cloud. We did, however, catch up with the Rossiter's from Caloundra and the Richardson's from Devonport, and briefly renew old acquaintances. That night we stayed in Blackheath, not far from the Three Sisters, at the High Mountains Motor Inn, and for the first time the entire bus load used their electric blankets to warm up, for it was a very cold and overcast night.

Our fifth day was spent mainly in getting to, and at, the Jenolan Caves. On our way there the clouds were very low and we couldn't see a thing, except an odd mountain peaking through the cloud. There were nine caves available for viewing, we all went through the biggest one, and some of us went back a second time to a smaller cave with an underground river, very interesting, and different from most caves because of the size. By the time we were on our way back the clouds had gone, and we were able

to see the beautiful country side. Next we stopped briefly at Hartley to see the old Court House and village, and then back to Blackheath for a look at Govetts Leap, where a horseman was supposed to have jumped to his death; again, it was real grandeur, with some spectacular views.

On our final day we headed first for the famous Zig Zag Railway at Lithgow, with its formation of two tunnels, three beautiful sandstone viaducts and many man made ledges hewn into the mountainside, and internationally acclaimed as one of the great engineering wonders of the 19th century. After our ride on the Zig Zag, we travelled down the Bells Line of Road through Bilpin, Kurrajong and into the Richmond and Windsor areas before reaching the freeway and heading back to Wyong to say goodbye to our friends of the past six days. The 'Wyong Mob' again turned on their hospitality for some of us that night, as we said a final farewell to those who had done so much towards such an excellent Rort.

While our Bus trip was small in numbers, it was agreed by all that we got to know each other a lot better and had a great time – thanks to Marian and Malcolm, and Stephen the bus driver.

Prepared by your semi-official 'part-time' Post Rort Reporter.

Garth Whitchurch

VALE - ERN BUTLER.



In the last issue of "Roaring 40's" we recalled that Ern Butler (Melbourne-Gippsland) was the inaugural winner of the Whizzy trophy.

Sadly, we have now to report that Ern passed away on 30th May after a long battle with myeloma, cancer of the bone marrow.

Ern grew up in Redcliffs near Mildura in Victoria and joined Apex there. When he transferred to Melbourne in his job in the timber and building supplies industry, he joined Nunawading Apex Club where he served as President and was awarded Life Membership.

He played a large part in formation of the Nunawading and District Retarded and Spastic Childrens' Association (NADRASCA) and served as a member of the governing body of NADAVOC, the associated sheltered workshop.

During his time in Apex, and subsequently, Ern attended a number of WOCO conferences and led a number of tours of Apexians to overseas venues. He was known for his ready wit and his many colourful accounts of events and mishaps during his travels.

One of the early members of Apex 40 following its commencement in 1973, Ern served as National President of Apex 40 from 1981 to 1983.

Ern endured considerable pain during his final months which he faced with fortitude and was still able to keep his sense of humour. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

Wherever he has gone to, we know that Ern will "take the slack out of 'em".

RORT REPORT - WYONG 1996

The Rort kicked off with a reception and sit-down supper at Warner's Lodge, where the majority of the visiting Rorters were accommodated. Rorters were welcomed by the 'Pirate King', alias Peter Ryall, President of Wyong Apex 40, resplendent in full length frock coat and the largest black, feathered hat ever made. Other Wyong members were dressed as the pirate crew. The reception provided a great opportunity for "old friends to meet, new friends to greet" – like it says in the Rort Song.

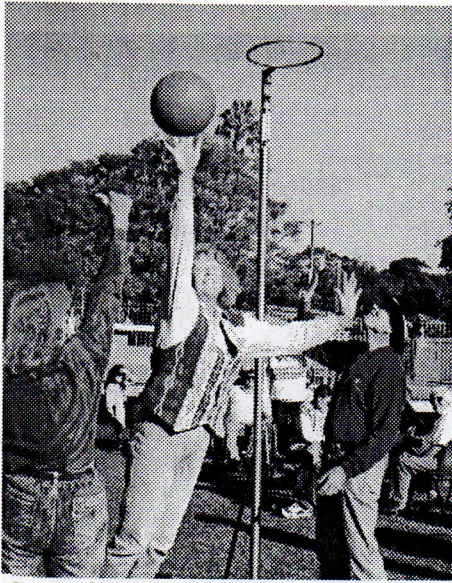


"The Pirate King", alias Peter Ryall, in full pirate regalia at Friday night's reception at Warners Lodge.

Saturday morning saw us all into three buses for a tour of the Central Coast from Tuggerah Lake down to Umina then on to Brooklyn where we embarked for a trip on the Hawkesbury River to Milson Island, the site of a former penitentiary. After a BBQ lunch and refreshments some of the more energetic members of the group tried their skill (or lack thereof) at cricket, netball and boomerang throwing.

After cruising back to Brooklyn we returned to Wyong by a scenic valley route.

Saturday night dinner at Warner's Lodge was followed by a program of hilarious entertainment compared by Chris King (remember Dennis, in "The Young Doctors") who did a fan-



On Milson Island, Melda Miller (Wynnum-Manly) shoots, while Beryl Grace (Morella) guards. Ron Miller anticipates.

tastic job and involved many of the Rorters. The Pirate King again played a prominent part in the proceedings, notwithstanding that his voice was fading fast. He managed to get through a rendition of Gilbert and Sullivan's "The Pirate King", aided by his pirate "crew". Members of Moree Apex 40 were conspicuous in their nautical gear and Ron Miller (Wynnum-Manly) stood out as Captain Hook, complete with a parrot on his shoulder.

Sunday morning saw us back on the buses, bound for Old Sydney Town to see what Sydney looked like 150 years BA (before Apex) and nearly 200 years before Apex 40.

Lunch in the woolshed at Old Sydney Town was followed by a sing-a-long of Aussie songs including a virtual reality sea-shanty! Fortunately no-one got sea-sick.

Next came the Annual General Meeting with National President Garth in the chair, assisted by National Secretary-Treasurer Brian. In true Apex 40 tradition, the fines session which followed outlasted the business session, due to the efforts of Fines Masters Phil Consalvo (Alstonville) and Tom Dumbleton and Cliff Taylor (Wyong).

Presentation of awards were made to: Wynnum-Manly – best attendance at Rort, & Alan Padgham (Melbourne-Gippsland) – best newsletter.



Another shot of Ron Miller (Wynnum-Manly) taken on Saturday night. It appears that he was a contender for the Pirate King.



Some of Chris King's unpaid (or unwilling?) assistants on Saturday night. Above we see Trish Tonkin and Bernie O'Keefe (the would-be 'perfect match' – as mentioned in Rorty Revelations), and below Aian Flaherty and Alan Kinder (Flanagan & Allan), all Melbourne/Gippsland, singing for their supper.



Glenn Rossiter outlined the likely program of events for next year's Rort to be hosted by Sunshine Coast at Caloundra. From the response to Glenn's call for an indication of likely starters, it promises to be another great Rort.

An offer was made by Port Lincoln to host the 1998 Rort and, as there were no other applicants, their application was accepted unanimously. The only other Rort held in South Australia was at Riverland, around Renmark in the north-east of the state in 1988, so a return to the south-western part of South Australia sounds very attractive.

Sunday night dinner was at Toukley Bowling Club and was followed by a one-act comedy play "Who do you think you are?" by the Wyong Drama Group. We were then entertained by "Outback", a remarkably talented group of young musicians to whom the description "bush band" does no justice. The standard of their performance was not really increased when they invited a number of Rorters to stand in as band extras, but it made for some great entertainment.

Melbourne-Gippsland members wore their nautical gear and a group of



Melb/Gipps & "Davie's Little Dinghy"

them presented a naughty-cal ditty, "The Admiral's Daughter" – or "Davie's Little Dinghy". A group of Wyong members then presented a hilarious (though dangerous) musical item about "pheasant plucking"! For their commendable effort the Wyong performers were declared the "best act" – but the trophy (the Great Malaysian Horn!) seems to have gone missing!



Wyong & "The Pheasant Pluckers"

The final award of the weekend, the "Whizzy" trophy, was won by no less a figure than the Pirate King himself, Peter Ryall, who possesses a notoriously weak bladder.

Dancing to the music of Outback included a number of bush dances including the "Queensland Round-up".

Monday morning saw Rorters departing in all different directions after breakfast together and farewells – and promises of "see you in Caloundra next year!"

Everyone agreed that it was indeed a great Rort. The unfortunate problems that a number of members faced with accommodation were well outweighed by the entertain-

ment that was provided, which was truly outstanding. Thanks from all of us to Wyong President Peter Ryall and especially to organising committee Chairman Marian Clark and her committee.

See you all at Caloundra

Alan Kinder (Ed.)

RORTY REVELATIONS

Wyong President Peter Ryall featured large throughout the weekend. Well over six feet tall and built like a brick 'heads', he cut an impressive figure as the Pirate King.

A number of couples were taken aback (to say the least) when they found they were to share accommodation at Warner's Lodge. However, in true Apex 40 spirit they made the most of it and didn't let it spoil the weekend. But when it came to settling up they made no bones about telling the management what they thought of the accommodation and the amount they were expected to pay for it – so there was a lot of haggling going on Monday morning. We think the lady got the message well enough. (Always thought Eddie Nunn was a quiet sort of bloke!)

Someone produced a boomerang at Milson Island and a few Rorters tried their hand. When someone lobbed it into the scrub, Leon Squires (Moree) went in after it and came out with two boomerangs! Leon knows a lot about boomerangs – he learnt to make them

as a young lad. So he said he will clean them up and have them in good condition for next year at Caloundra. Better practise up!

Phil Consalvo (Alstonville) was eager to instruct some of the ladies on how to throw a boomerang but didn't seem to discover any star pupils.

Didn't see any 'test' material among the cricketers but Melda Miller (Wynnum-Manly) and Beryl Grace (Morella) showed a bit of form at netball.

Chris King did a great job as compere on Saturday night and provided some real fun entertainment. Much of the fun was provided by those he called up to the microphone, including David Cameron (Redlands), Beryl Grace (Morella), Cliff Taylor (Wyong), Greta Rose (Ulverstone), Bernie O'Keefe (Tea-bag – sorry, Terang), Trish Tonkin (Melbourne-Gippsland), and Flannagan and Alan (alias Alan Flaherty and Alan Kinder, Melbourne-Gippsland).

A highlight of the night was when Chris King tried to make a 'Perfect Match' with Bernie and Trish! We hear that Bernie had a bad dream that night but woke the next morning to find he was still sharing a room with George.

If you want to know how the stuffed parrot on Ron Miller's shoulder came to poop all down his back – ask the Wombat (alias Rob Walter, Heyfield).

A few Rorters tried out the mini-golf

course on Sunday morning. Pain Sweyn (Moree) gave up after 26 shots on the first hole and Peter Chessell (Norwesters) managed 24.

Many of the Rorters had a go at the 'mead tasting' at Old Sydney Town – but the popular verdict seemed to be that it wouldn't put VB or XXXX out of business.

Mr. Kenney, the school teacher, was a rather odd character, when he eventually came to life!

And then there was the pansy guy who trotted around all day on the lookout for a nice big man. He was rather taken with Brian Roach's apparel and remarked, "not many of us can wear red and pink, eh darl?"

The contingent from Grafton travelled down together by train. Lyn Betts put in a bid for the Whizzy tro-

phy when she got her finger caught in the door of the men's toilet!

The Wyong performers did a marvelous job with the 'Pheasant Pluckers'. So good that they were called on to do an encore. Guess what, Peter Ryall got plucked up the second time around!

Extra 'musicians' who were called on to augment the band on Sunday night included Alan Flaherty, Beryl Grace, Trish Tonkin, National President Garth, Bernie O'Keefe, Marian Clark and Neil Hookey.

Bernie was a hit with the triangle (just as well Johann Strauss didn't live to hear it); Trish beat out a mean rhythm with a couple of coconuts; and Marian played the dead chook with consummate skill!



Neil Hookey and Alan Flaherty (Melbourne Gippsland) serving their "time" as unpaid assistants to 'Outback', for unsolicited backchat to the compere on Sunday night

AROUND THE BRANCHES

Alstonville - Five couples from Alstonville attended the Wyong Rort. Some members may join Ballina Apex 40 for a weekend at Bribie Island in July.

On a sad note, the Club records that popular member Ken Dunstan passed away on 5th June. Ken and wife Veda were regular attenders at Apex 40 Rorts and Ken will be missed by his many friends in many Apex 40 Clubs.

On a lighter note, it seems that someone has absconded with the club 'esky'!

Bendigo - Members celebrated the Chinese New Year at the Chinese Museum. The three couples attending the Wyong Rort hope to be home in time for 'dinner at the trots' at Bendigo's new Raceway Entertainment Complex with tables overlooking the track.

Blue Mountains - Members are to spend a weekend in late June at Binda Bush Cabins, near Jenolan Caves.

Coming up are a progressive dinner and a car trial later in the year.

Brunswick Valley - Secretary/Treasurer Alan Stewart reports that he is having some trouble collecting membership fees. Says Alan, "Times are tough. I can see the day coming when there will be nothing left at the bottom of the barrel and when that day comes how in hell will the President

and I be able to afford to continue to drink, gamble and play around at the pace we have become accustomed to. Do the members expect us to dip into our own money for our pleasure?"

Forbes - Holding a Christmas in July (Here we go again, Ed.) except that it is to be in June, at "Country Cravings".

A number of hardy members departed Forbes at 6.00 am. through the frost in April to Canowindra for the "Balloon Fiesta". Several dozen colourful hot-air balloons were launched, including a giant Kookaburra 52 metres high (Editor's conversion) and a Polar Bear.

Planning a dinner and film night for August and perhaps a weekend in the Blue Mountains in October.

The Great 8 - Newsletter Editor Dianne Ross reports "Last month's dinner meeting at the Anatolia Turkish Cuisine and Pidda House in Hamilton was an interesting experience. A long table had been set up for us in the dining area where we took our seats - very close to the floor (not so good for those with long legs!). We sampled a little of everything and found that we liked what was offered. Towards the end of the meal, the entertainment arrived in a swirl of blue voile - the belly dancer! and she certainly was limber!! Members of the audience were invited to accompany her, however none from our table were willing participants."



The Great 8 at their April meeting at the "Anatolia Turkish Cuisine and Pidda House" in Hamilton, Newcastle. (Knees up Mother Brown? Ed.)

Lake Macquarie - In July members will meet at an Outback Art and Graft Gallery for wine and cheese and a guided tour and demonstration before dinner at a nearby Club.

Later in July members will participate in a "multicultural safari" (?)

Malacca - April meeting was the Club's A.G.M. with enough members to make a quorum, despite the most apologies to date. Unfortunately the meeting had to be postponed midway through but will be continued at the next meeting in May.

Melbourne-Gippsland - June meeting will be held at Casey TAFE College at Dandenong. Previous meeting saw a

birthday cake appear to celebrate President Charlie Burgess's birthday - looked like a bushfire!

Members are still having difficulty identifying the baby photos appearing in the newsletter, but the fines box continues to swell.

Norwesters - Holding a Christmas in July dinner (in June!) at the Keilor Hotel. (I received an invitation to the 6th July dinner which caught up with me on 10th July in Darwin, so I wasn't able to attend and too late to apologise. Thanks for the invitation anyway, hope you had a good night, Ed.)

Portland - From Peter Miller (I think). "Portland Apex 40 with a mem-

bership of around 45 and meeting bi-monthly has had a varied year of social engagements. During February the Group ventured to Halls Gap in the Grampians for a camping weekend. Everyone had a great weekend except for the bloke who ran the camping ground. He thought for 'Oldies' we made too much noise and stayed up too late.

The April meeting was a Progressive Dinner that was such success it almost became a 'Progressive Breakfast'!!

A coach trip to play ten pin bowling in Mt. Gambier was the venue for our June meeting. This was followed by a restaurant meal, fellowship and pokies. No trip between Mt. Gambier and Portland is complete without a stop at the Nelson Hotel (Halfway House) for a game of pool with the locals and more fellowship. It's lucky we went by coach.

The agenda for August is a river cruise up the Glenelg River to the Princess Margaret Rose Caves and a BBQ with fellowship, of course."

Port Lincoln - From President Ken Webber - "Coming into 9 months of Apex 40 Pres. is the toughest job in Apex I've ever had. Harder than D.G. (a malapropism). No truth in the stories, that we have enough tuna in the freezer for 50,000 tuna steaks at the next fund raiser. Club is having a ball, averaging 40 members per turn out, dreading the time all members decide to turn up at once".

Last meeting clashed with the "Old Bastards Club" meeting so attendance was down. Next meeting member Pat Callaghan will give a talk and show slides of his recent trip to Antarctica, via the Andes and Tierra del Fuego then on to Antarctica in a Russian cruise ship.

Redlands - Another Yule-tide Dinner coming up in June, log fires and mulled wine. 50th dinner coming up in October.

Sunraysia - Club is to hold a Bocce afternoon in June at Club da Vinci - beginners catered for. Planning a Bush Bash at Werrimull and a theatre night/supper later on in the year.

From the newsletter "Vintage Vine" - *"The two cannibal comedians made a pact that when the first of them died the other would eat him. Of course it had to happen so Oompaa put Joompaa in the pot with all the usual herbs and spices and simmered him well. This went on for some time with Oompaa trying the concoction periodically but no matter what he did, it still tasted funny."*

Werribee - Another Victorian club holding a "Trots Night" - this time at Moonee Valley Members Dining Room.

Then - you guessed it - Christmas Dinner in June at the Old Melbourne Motor Inn, with Gluhwein, ice carvings, carol singers and a snow storm! (I am writing these notes in 31° heat in Darwin, Ed.)

Wyong - The Rort has come and gone and members appreciated the comments they heard of Great! Fantastic! Wonderful! And the post-Rort tour organised by Malcolm Clark was enjoyed very much by those who went along.

Raffle and fines session conducted at the Rort raised \$430 for the Magic Castle Chalet.



Judy Taylor (Wyong), Robert Grace (Morella) and Neil Hookey (Melbourne/Gippsland) on Sunday night



Jocelyn Nielsen (Wyong) and National President Garth Whitchurch (Melbourne/Gippsland) at the Sunday night dinner dance



Ray and Sue Wilkinson (Wyong), at Milson Island on Saturday afternoon



Beryl and Robert Grace were the sole representatives from West Australia at the 'Nauti' Rort at Wyong

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**APEX 40 CO-ORDINATING
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NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Garth Whitchurch,
1/18 Severn Street,
Box Hill North,
Victoria 3129
(03) 9898 7473

NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

Brian Roach,
15 Wilpena Place,
Vermont South,
Victoria, 3133
(03) 9802 1063

NATIONAL EXTENSION CHAIRMAN

Glenn Rossiter (Betty),
10 Teewah Street,
Caloundra,
Queensland, 4551
(074) 913 823

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BRANCH SECRETARIES**

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Branches are invited and urged to forward news & photos of branch activities and other items of interest for publication in the next issue of "Roaring 40's"

Let's have photographs and news of branch functions so we can see what you look like, and what you get up to

Please forward material to:

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**THE NEXT DEADLINE IS
31st October, 1996.**