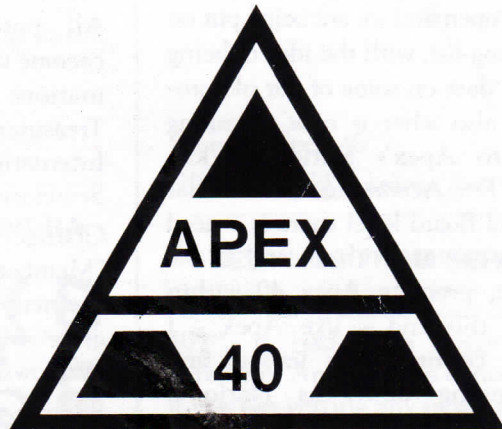


ROARING 40's

APRIL 1997



FOR CONTINUING FELLOWSHIP

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

A WORD FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Well, before you know it, the Rort at Caloundra will be upon us! By the time you get this newsletter it will be less than a couple of months away. Registrations at the end of February were around 115 and that was without the locals, so all looks set for a great time with our Queensland hosts and a total Rort participation of close to 170.

I have mentioned in previous issues that our communication with Apex is now more open and we are being put on their mailing list, with the idea of being kept up to date on some of our old projects and also what is new. Speaking recently to Apex's National Vice-President, Eric Accornero, he feels that at National Board level there is a need to keep in contact with us, and at the same time, promote Apex 40 within Apex. To this end - like Apex - I intend to continue this liaison, and after stepping down as National President this year, will become a central and permanent point for contact with Apex, which will leave the running of Apex 40 to our National Executive.

National Secretary Brian has requested any Club with overdue subscriptions to forward those to him as soon as possible, so that he may close off the books for the Rort and AGM.

With the introduction of Women's Apex in recent years, your National Executive has agreed, that under our Constitution, we will need to open our Membership to not only past Apexians

and their Wives (Widows) but to also include "partners", so that we can cater for both sexes which are now in Apex. Our Constitution was last revised in 1992 so this will be the first change in five years (a bit different from our Apex years).

I look forward to meeting new and old "Rorters" at Caloundra and wish you a safe trip there.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING NOTICES

All positions on National Board become vacant this year. We need nominations for President, Secretary/Treasurer, Extension/Membership, International Relations. Please advise Secretary Brian or President Garth.

Change to Constitution: Under "Membership" clause (d) to read "Partners (Widows or Widowers) of eligible Members" in lieu of Wives (Widows) of eligible Members.

Reason: Apex also now has Women's Apex and therefore allows partners of both sexes to join Apex 40 if so desired.

Any notices of General Business to be advised to Secretary two weeks prior to AGM. (Note - we are looking for the AGM to be finished in 10 minutes, with fines session to take at least 20 minutes this year)

MEMBERSHIP REPORT.

After two years as your membership coordinator, I feel it's time to hang up the 'phone. After many enquiries and lots of 'phone calls our Association is in

very good shape, thanks to you the members. Thanks to Garth and Brian for your help with the formation of several new Clubs. As 1997 Rort Chairman I have noted that some Club Secretaries don't forward on the "Roaring 40's" or registration forms to their club members. Clubs are only sent a few copies to keep costs down, so please reproduce and distribute them to all your members.

To my successor, who is yet to be named, I wish you a very satisfying time as membership co-ordinator.

Thank you all for the friendship shown to me over the last two years.

Yours in Apex 40

Glenn Rossiter.

SUNSHINE RORT, CALOUNDRA.



At the time of this report (Feb. 28th) there were lots of registrations in. 115 within Australia, 40 from Caloundra, 10 indicated from Malaysia, plus 20 post-Rort tour bookings (*now 28, Ed*).

We will keep registration open until 1st May for those who forgot.

If you didn't receive a registration form please 'phone Betty A.S.A.P. or ask your club secretary. By the way, catch

up on some sleep before you arrive in Caloundra as we have a very busy weekend in store for you (trust me).

For registration forms and information, telephone Betty Rossiter, 10 Teewah St., Caloundra 4551 Queensland.

07 5491 3823.



Yours in Apex 40

Glenn (Chook) Rossiter. (Rort Chairman)

GREETINGS FROM SEREMBAN

As reported in the last issue of "Roaring 40's", it had been suggested that Seremban Apex 40 was concerned that it was not getting any news published.

We have since received a letter of greeting and a couple of Dinner Notices from K. Pajan Singh, Seremban's Dinner Notice Director.

It seems that the club missed out on the December issue of "Roaring 40's" and also on registration forms for the Caloundra Rort. However, the mailing list has now been updated and all should be well in the future. Pajan Singh has asked us to clarify the situation by stating that "at no time did any of the Seremban members complain that the Roaring 40's does not carry news on Malaysian Clubs".

At a joint meeting of all Malaysian Clubs held in Seremban last year, it was suggested that an International Relations Director be appointed who would pass on information about Malaysian clubs.

MALACCA'S FUND RAISER

In the last issue of "Roaring 40's" we mentioned the fund-raising dinner held by Malacca Apex 40 late last year.

The following is a brief report on that dinner published in the "New Straits Times".

"After a lapse of four years, the Apex 40 – also formerly known as OASIS (Old Apexians Still In Service) – held its second fund-raising dinner at the Kengdom Restaurant, Malacca, recently.

The dinner was held in aid of the poor and needy students to finance their purchase of books and bursary. It was also for setting up kindergarten projects in the rural areas.

The Apex 40 president S.A. Lingham said

the members or Apexians were also brought together to provide for the needy.

Present at the dinner were Apex 40 secretary T.T. Singham, committee members Lourdes Nathan, Albert Dawson, R.E. Demudu and Helen Singham.

Among guests at the dinner were Anthony Sammy and wife Manjit Anthony, Samantha Singam and Cynthia Gregory.."

DINNER NOTICE HUMOUR

BENDIGO: Did you hear about the skeleton who didn't attend the ball? He had no body to go with!

the cannibal who suffered from indigestion? He ate people who disagreed with him!

FORBES: An Irish gentleman walked into Phil Well's shop and said he wanted to be tested for a new pair of glasses. Phil asked him a few questions and then conducted several different tests, including one where he asked the gen-



tleman to place his right hand over his left eye to read the chart and then his left hand over his right eye and do the same thing.

After several attempts the man kept getting it wrong and was reading the chart with the wrong eye so in desperation Phil went into the back room and found a cardboard box.

He cut a hole where the man's right eye should be and came back in and placed it over the man's head.

"Now", he said, "I want you to read the chart and tell me how well you can see".

There was silence for a few moments and then Phil heard sobbing from under the cardboard box.

He pulled the box off the man's head and said "What on earth is the matter?"

The Irishman looked at the cardboard box with tears rolling down his cheeks and said "Well I really had me heart set on a pair of metal frames like me brudder".

THE GREAT 8: Bill was swanning round Lido Beach in Italy, and was in the process of trying to chat up three of the local goddesses who were sunning themselves on the sand.

"So, if you could be anyone in the world, who would you want to be?" he asked them.

"Gina Lollobrigida," said the first, a sultry Roman brunette.

"Sophia Loren," replied the second, a dark-haired Sicilian girl.

"Sarah Pippilini," said the third, a spunky blonde who hailed from Milan.

"Who's Sarah Pippilini?" Bill asked.

The girl tugged a newspaper clipping from out of her handbag and offered it to Bill. It read, "SAHARA PIPELINE: Laid by 200 men in 14 days!"

REDLANDS: Is a gourmet cook an interior decorator?

"Movie cowboys mystify me," Bob Hope once said. "How can they jump off a verandah roof onto a horse, and still sing in a normal voice?"

WYONG: Applicants who wished to become espionage agents were being interviewed at ASIO and each one was handed an envelope which was marked "STRICTLY CONFIDENTIAL - DO NOT OPEN" and told to deliver it to the ground floor office.

They all followed these instructions except Malcolm, who slipped into the dark hall, carefully opened the seal without tearing it and read the note "TAKE THIS TO THE TOP FLOOR. YOU ARE HIRED."

AROUND THE BRANCHES.

ALSTONVILLE: Started the year with a big roll-up for good food and great fellowship at Shaws Bay Cafe at Ballina. Present at the dinner was Lisell, an exchange student from South Africa.

Next dinner, in March, will feature a sea-food smorgasbord.

Alstonville Apex has asked the club for help at the Motor Show in late February.

BENDIGO: February meeting is to be a twilight gathering at Marg. and Ross O'Neills.

FORBES: Pre-Christmas meeting was a luncheon on the beautiful banks of the Lachlan River at Apex Caravan Park. (A number of Melbourne-Gippsland members will remember staying at the park en-route to the Grafton Rort.)

February meeting will be held on a Saturday as several members find week-nights inconvenient. The venue for what will be the AGM will be a new restaurant "Paddy's" at the Australia Hotel.

THE GREAT 8: Members have been asked to keep their aluminium cans for collection to assist a project providing facilities at the John Hunter Children's Hospital.

February meeting will be a (eat as much as you like) banquet at Gandha's Indian Restaurant.

GROVEDALE-GEELONG: February meeting will be a bowls night at Belmont Bowls Club. Instruction as to the finer art of bowling will be available, if required. The game will be followed by a BBQ tea with drinks available at the bar.

LAKE MACQUARIE: Another sporty club – tennis and family night in January.

March meeting, at the Hogs Breath Cafe, will feature a guest speaker, a Lancaster tail-gunner who was shot down over Germany during WW2.

Members are to assist with the provision of manpower (should that be personpower?) at the annual Eisteddfod to be held in June.

April will see members (and ladies!) joining with Wyong Apex 40 for a mystery night.

LAUNCESTON: Final meeting for 1996 was at the Kings Meadows Hotel for a counter meal with music by the "Good Old Boys" (*Obviously not Apex 40 members – Ed.*)

In January, a get-together at the Scottsdale Trots – just over the back fence from Rex and Jeanette Lethborg's.

February meeting will be at a new Chinese restaurant at Prospect.

MALACCA: December meeting at the Malacca Indian Association was rather brief "as there was nothing much to be discussed with the fund-raising project successfully completed". (See newspaper report elsewhere in this issue).

Only two members attended Kuala Lumpur's Installation Night in December although it sounded like a good night – "the food was sumptuous, the drinks free-flowing and the jokes session was wild", according to Malacca's dinner notice editor, T.T. Singham. T.T. also reports that "the sing-a-long session by Neiker (Kuala Lumpur) and Albert Dawson (Malacca) showed there is talent amongst us. The session contributed greatly to the evening's fellowship. The organisers could have done away with the so-called guest singers and saved some money!"

MOREE: At the January meeting at "Sowerby's Ranch", members farewelled Danny and Esma Bourke who are moving south to Melbourne. After a game of boules around the

garden, the "best hat" competition was judged ... and the winners, – Danny and Esma.

A good contingent from Moree is planning to attend the Caloundra Rort where they hope they don't strike Faulty Towers again!

REDLANDS: 65 members attended a very entertaining evening at the Brentleigh Theatre Restaurant in December. The show featured comedian Eric Sommers from the English TV show "Black Adder".

February meeting will be at "Rushes" restaurant which will be closed to the public for the night.

SEREMBAN: After a disappointing (attendance-wise) meeting in October, attendance at the December meeting was encouraging even though the weather was unkind - it was raining cats and dogs.

In October the club conducted a successful fund-raising car wash project, assisted by members of Seremban Apex.

Depavali – the Festival of Light – fell on 10th November and saw many members busy "marketing and looking for cheap beers". The Chinese members of the club visited the homes of the Hindu members, wishing them happiness and joy on this special occasion.

The Indian Ambassador presently resides at the home of member Dato M.S. Maniam – not the Indian Ambassador to Malaysia but an Indian-made car, the Ambassador!

SUNRAYSLIA: Pre-Christmas meeting was an afternoon affair at Jazz at the

Woolshed, where members enjoyed the jazz and the wine. Annual General Meeting will be held in February at the Red Cliffs Golf Club.

WYONG: The club's weekend trip to the Hunter Valley late last year was a great success. Malcolm Clark, who organised the trip, also organised the first fine weekend in six weeks.

Past-President Peter Ryall received a nice "thank-you" note from ex-RTBI visitors Ian and Angela Waterhouse from Manchester who had joined in on the Hunter Valley weekend. Ian said "Thank you all for your friendship and hospitality during our visit to Australia. We had a super time with you and it shows that friendships still go on in our organisations no matter how old we get."

A GOOD BOOK FOR CARAVANNERS

Apex Forty co-founder Lionel Mussell and wife Vi have launched a new career as book publishers – at least they have published one book – "The ABC of Caravanning".

The book contains a compilation of selected articles that Lionel has had published in Caravan World over the past eight or nine years and sales have exceeded their expectations since the launch just before Christmas.

With lots of humour and a wealth of information and tips, the book is a must for every caravanner whether starting out or more experienced.

'tropical forest' she took us to, and the 2 trees growing together! Plus the picture on her face when she saw her first ever Koalas in the wild – and her a farmer's daughter!

Another couple we have fond memories of are Robert and Beryl Grace from Perth, who also figured in the latest 'Roaring 40's' magazine and who we would love to meet again. They actually kept in touch with my daughter and family until they left for Brazil."

While in Melbourne, Derek walked down to the local shops, via the park, to get a Sunday paper. A sad comment on life in South Africa is seen in Derek's comment in his letter:

"I wonder when I will ever walk to the shop for a Sunday paper again!"

Alan and Nola Kinder had a return visit (after 25 years) from ex-RTBI member Roger Pitchfork and wife Tricia of Sheffield, England in February. Roger had stayed with the Kinder's for a week back in 1971 when he was one of the large RTBI contingent who came to Melbourne for a WOCO conference.

In the meantime, in addition to regular (once a year) correspondence, Alan and Nola have visited Roger and Tricia twice in Sheffield and the two Pitchfork sons, Christopher and Richard, have visited the Kinders in Melbourne on separate trips to Australia.

Roger has now experienced both extremes of Melbourne's weather. After leaving a snowy Yorkshire, they arrived in Melbourne in the middle of the February heat-wave. In 1971, however, the WOCO conference was in mid-winter August and the RTBI fellows,

en-route to Melbourne from Sydney, were entertained at a BBQ by Bendigo Apexians – the "poms" kept putting their beer cans on the BBQ hot-plate to warm them up!

ALL BEHIND AT BALLINA

We are always asking Clubs to send in photo's for publication in "Roaring 40's", so that we can get a look at our fellow members and see what they are getting up to.

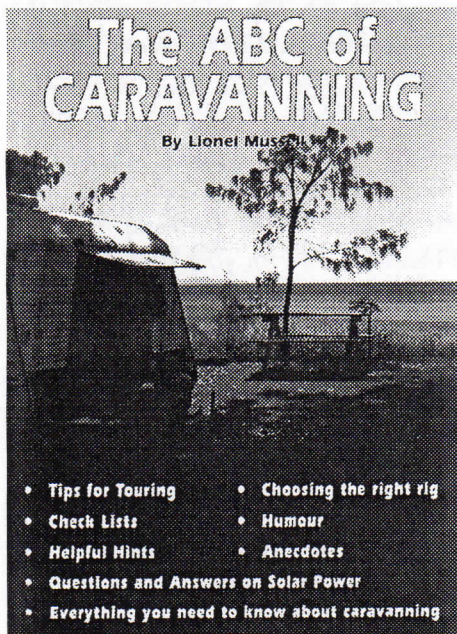
They seem to have got it back-to-front at Ballina, but at least they sent us a photo.



Ballina Apex 40 members Wendy and Dave McFadden are shown studying memorabilia at the C.U.B. brewery at Yatla, between Brisbane and the Gold Coast. **N.B.** Dave is the one on the right.

Thanks to Ballina for the photo, but I am sure you other clubs can do better than that. – Ed.

Lionel and Vi have caravanned for more than forty years both here in Australia and before that in the U.K., and Lionel claims to have made every silly mistake possible at some time or other. He blames it all on his mate Murphy (What can go wrong, will!)



These days they travel with a luxurious self-contained caravan that they designed themselves, that is fully set-up for bush camping – with solar power, shower and toilet and most of the comforts of home.

The book is available by mail order from ELVEEM Productions, 77/98 Bungower Rd, Mornington, Vic. 3931.

It costs \$19.95, plus post and packing of \$2.05.

(Lionel says that he will autograph copies for Apex 40 members at no extra charge! Ed.)

KEEPING IN TOUCH

In the May 1996 issue of "Roaring 40's" we reported on a visit by South African 41ers Derek and Anita Clark to Glen and Naida Twidale in Melbourne. Just before Christmas Glen and Naida received a letter from Derek and Anita, part of which said:

"...were sad to read of the death of Ken Dunstan, whom we met when we stayed with Kevin and Liz Huxham in Alstonville – what a great guy he was, even though we only met him for just a short time. We will always remember his 'trophy' room of his Apex and other trips around the world which was something we will never see the like of again.

And we also saw, in one of the 'Roaring 40's' a picture of Trish (Tonkin) who is of course recognisable and remembered by all the 41ers you came across on your tour. She certainly made a hit! First question we got asked when we got back.... did you meet Trish?

And talking of bachelors, brings us to Bill Cunliffe who took us up into the Dandenong forest – looking at trains, half size and miniature.

We had a cup of tea in some mountain cafe and, following on from that, we have fallen for Tony O'Connor's music (which was being played whilst we overlooked Melbourne coming out of the haze!) and came back with 'Kakadu', 'Bushland Dreaming' and a couple of others – fantastic!

Whilst on about people in your part of the world, we remember Helen and Robert Noble because we still talk about the

A FEW GEMS TO REMEMBER

A bricklayer had a peacock and it laid an egg in his neighbour's yard. Who's egg was it, the bricklayer's or the neighbour's? This profound question, which is fundamental to our democratic way of life, has confounded wise sages and eminent legal minds since the time of Solomon.

In a recent survey, involving three High Court judges, 16 lower court judges, 35 QC's, and 40 experienced lawyers; 51% found for the bricklayer and 39% for the neighbour, whereas 8% were undecided and 2% were overseas and couldn't be contacted.

In an even more recent survey, involving 87 ten year old schoolgirls, 100% said that peacocks don't lay eggs, only peahens lay eggs.

The survey team concluded that the average lawyer hasn't got the brains of a peacock but the schoolgirls stuck up for him and said that he has.

Researchers agree that birthdays are good for you – there is unanimous agreement that those with the most birthdays live the longest.

If you want a death-defying adrenalin rush... take up fishing.

Statistics released by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents show that fishing is more dangerous than motor sport, skydiving and rock-climbing.

“Maintenance-free” means that when it breaks it can't be fixed

A ward robe is a place for hanging things when you run out of door-knobs.

Friendship is like silver. Sometimes it's put away longer than we realise and it becomes tarnished. but when we polish it, it is still like new.

Opportunity only knocks. Temptation kicks in the door.

A rumour is a breeze created by a couple of windbags.

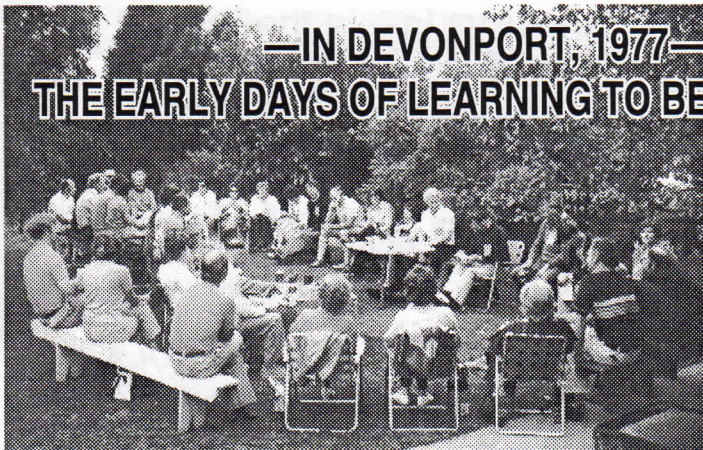
Did you ever notice that the Waitress always arrives to ask you how the food is when you have your mouth full?

Doubters do not achieve; Sceptics do not contribute; Cynics do not create.

There is no limit to what a man can do if he doesn't care who takes the credit.

No opportunity is lost; the other fellow takes it.

—IN DEVONPORT, 1977—
THE EARLY DAYS OF LEARNING TO BE A "RORTER"



Apex 40 AGM's have always been informal affairs – like this one at the second-ever Rort at Devonport in 1977...



Especially when Jock Littler rode in on his steed!



We all soon learnt that Rorting was as easy as not falling off a log.

Get your News in – in the Next Issue of Roaring 40's

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:

Alan Kinder,
34 Shafer Road,
Blackburn, Vic. 3130
(03) 9898 5124

**THE NEXT DEADLINE IS
30th June, 1997.**

- FOR SALE - APEX 40 GEAR

THESE ITEMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

NAME BADGES – Cost: \$7.00

Available from –

Alan Kinder (Nola)
34 Shafer Road,
Blackburn. Vic. 3130
Phone (03) 9898 5124

STICK PINS – Cost: \$3.50

APEX 40 BANNERS – (P.O.A.)

Available from –

Kevin Huxham (Liz)
29 Valley Drive
Alstonville. N.S.W. 2477
Phone (066) 280 881

CAR STICKERS – Cost: \$1.50

Available from –

Glenn Rossiter (Betty)
10 Teewah Street
Caloundra, Qld, 4551
Phone 07 54913823

- Costs quoted include postage,
- Please forward cheque with order.
- Cheques to be made payable to supplier (as listed).
- Please ensure correct spelling for name badges.

APEX 40 CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

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ATTENTION BRANCH SECRETARIES!

We are only able to send a few copies of "Roaring 40's" to each Club, so please ensure that you reproduce extra copies for distribution to your members.