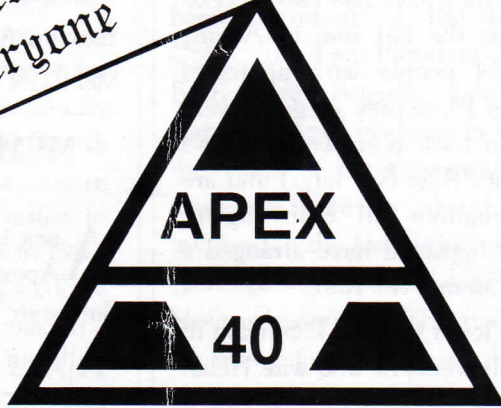


ROARING 40's



FOR CONTINUING FELLOWSHIP

December 1997

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

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

I'm sure you all enjoyed Alan Kinder's report of the Sunshine Rort, and what a great job he and Alan Padgham made of the Roaring 40's. Their continuing efforts are making life easy for Secretary/Treasurer John Bowman and me.

A number of clubs have kept in touch with us as reported in "Around the Branches". Our newest club at Griffith reports that they have had two successful meetings, the last one in August attracting 44 people with apologies from another 19, so they are going well. Port Lincoln have been working hard on next year's Rort (see later) and are about to mailout all clubs again. Melbourne/Gippsland have arranged a 12 day tour around the Rort.

I received a letter from T. T. Singam in Malaysia this week; he and wife Helen visited us a while ago but were disappointed they were unable to go to the Caloundra Rort. Apex there has abolished the age limit, which has set the cat amongst the pigeons; some prefer Apex 40 to continue on as it was, others want to rejoin Apex and others want the best of both worlds.

Apex continues to struggle in many places. and it is sad to see the demise of many clubs we were associated with. My own club Wyong is surviving (just) and celebrates its 1000th dinner during November. It is one of two clubs left on the Central Coast which supported eight clubs in the heyday of Apex. More

Apex clubs are asking for our support to assist them in surviving, so if you are able to help the local club please do so and let us know how they are going. Newcastle area Apex clubs are having a get together of past and present Apex members at the city hall on 7th March 1998 where they hope to fill the hall to capacity (some 500 people). If you want more information please contact me (02 4392 2129) or Graham Burgess (02 4958 3195) direct.

Yours in Apex 40

Mal Clark

MEMBERSHIP REPORT — APEX HELPS —

Apex is presently helping form new Apex 40 clubs at Albury and in Burnie in Tasmania.

While our membership has changed little since convention there is a need to expand and bring in the 'not so old' retired Apexian to continue our movement and to give us a contact with the present Apex membership. Perhaps we could network with Apex and help them with their membership.

Clubs may be asked for assistance by Apex to tell them about Apex 40. Please don't hesitate to help. If you want any information, contact Membership and Apex Liaison Director Garth Whitchurch, on 'phone/fax 03 9898 747.

Garth Whitchurch

A bit about Malcolm Clark

I was born in Yorkshire in 1946, no great surprise to anyone who has heard me, and lived there until 1970 when we migrated to Australia. Of course I'd met the Lady Marian by then and we married in 1967 as we were finishing our training for our future careers, me as an engineer and Marian as a nurse. We also started our family in 1970, with the arrival of the first Australian Clark in December, one of four boys we have reared on the sunny Central Coast. I had been going along to Wyong Apex club meetings from starting work with The Electricity Commission of NSW at Munmorah Power Station, and joined the club in 1971. I think I held every position in the club prior to my retirement in 1986, and nominated for Zone board a couple of times but didn't manage to make it.

Two other long time friends in Apex retired at the same time, the whiskered one Kevin Deaves, and "tiles" Dennis Heilbrunn, and we decided that Wyong should have an Apex 40 club. We formed the club that September and it has been going strong ever since. It took us a while to find out that there was an association of Apex 40 clubs but the club has been Rorting ever since the Brisbane Rort about ten years ago. In 1996 we hosted the famous Rort at "Fawlty Towers" (we still have a very amicable relationship with the owners). Wyong Apex 40 gets together once a month for a social dinner, with an

attendance of around 24, and we are just back from our annual weekend away (our fourth one so far). This year we had a great time at the lodge at Hawks Nest.

So what has Apex done for Mal? Apart from great lasting friendships. Apex has helped me to develop so that I have felt confident in contributing to the community and my profession and assisted me in my work life. I am active in the Local Community Association, have been President of the local Park Committee, I am President of the local Bush Fire Brigade (also Deputy Captain). Apex made me more aware of the value of these organisations and made me want to contribute. I got involved in the Institution of Engineers years ago and this year I am President of Newcastle division. This has been very rewarding for me, contributing to my chosen profession. Presentation and leadership skills fostered in Apex have assisted me in doing a good job. Marian and I have both progressed well in our careers, and I am sure Apex had some effect here, but now we see the retired ones in our club and wonder why we spend so much time working! Our four boys are grown up but only one married so far, the world has changed in so many ways since our youth hasn't it. Well, we can reminisce further next time we chat, take care.

Mal Clark.

A bit about Malcolm Clark

I was born in Yorkshire in 1946, no great surprise to anyone who has heard me, and lived there until 1970 when we migrated to Australia. Of course I'd met the Lady Marian by then and we married in 1967 as we were finishing our training for our future careers, me as an engineer and Marian as a nurse. We also started our family in 1970, with the arrival of the first Australian Clark in December, one of four boys we have reared on the sunny Central Coast. I had been going along to Wyong Apex club meetings from starting work with The Electricity Commission of NSW at Munmorah Power Station, and joined the club in 1971. I think I held every position in the club prior to my retirement in 1986, and nominated for Zone board a couple of times but didn't manage to make it.

Two other long time friends in Apex retired at the same time, the whiskered one Kevin Deaves, and "tiles" Dennis Heilbrunn, and we decided that Wyong should have an Apex 40 club. We formed the club that September and it has been going strong ever since. It took us a while to find out that there was an association of Apex 40 clubs but the club has been Rorting ever since the Brisbane Rort about ten years ago. In 1996 we hosted the famous Rort at "Fawlty Towers" (we still have a very amicable relationship with the owners). Wyong Apex 40 gets together once a month for a social dinner, with an

attendance of around 24, and we are just back from our annual weekend away (our fourth one so far). This year we had a great time at the lodge at Hawks Nest.

So what has Apex done for Mal? Apart from great lasting friendships. Apex has helped me to develop so that I have felt confident in contributing to the community and my profession and assisted me in my work life. I am active in the Local Community Association, have been President of the local Park Committee, I am President of the local Bush Fire Brigade (also Deputy Captain). Apex made me more aware of the value of these organisations and made me want to contribute. I got involved in the Institution of Engineers years ago and this year I am President of Newcastle division. This has been very rewarding for me, contributing to my chosen profession. Presentation and leadership skills fostered in Apex have assisted me in doing a good job. Marian and I have both progressed well in our careers, and I am sure Apex had some effect here, but now we see the retired ones in our club and wonder why we spend so much time working! Our four boys are grown up but only one married so far, the world has changed in so many ways since our youth hasn't it. Well, we can reminisce further next time we chat, take care.

Mal Clark.

A Bit about John Bowman

A little bit of history about myself. I was born in Cessnock in 1947, at the time my father was a timber cutter in the Watagan State Forest. Then, at the age of five, my family moved to the Central Coast where I have spent the rest of my life, schooling, etc.

I am a Spare Parts Interpreter. I was with a local company for a long period of time, but then took a plunge and moved to Sydney to a large Holden dealership where I am one of ten on the spare parts team; we supply all the Sydney and Central Coast area with parts. It has been a very challenging and rewarding time for me, totally different in every way.

I joined Wyong Apex in 1978 and held every portfolio except that of President during my stay. I retired in 1988 and then was asked to join Wyong Apex 40 club.

At the present moment I am attending Wyong Apex dinners, along with other members of Apex 40, to help them stabilise their numbers and give encouragement in keeping the club alive.

My hobbies are golf (which I play on a regular basis with the local Wyong RSL golf club), fishing, car racing, gardening, and rorting. Sandra and I have five children, all of whom have gone to university, the youngest just finishing her final year. This has kept us quite poor, but times are changing.

We have both enjoyed going to the Rorts, the first being Grafton, then Perth, Melbourne, Wyong and

Caloundra, which have been a great pleasure and enjoyment for us both. We look forward to attending more Rorts if work and time permit for us.

I hope during my term of office to encourage more Apex 40 clubs to join us in Rorting and will endeavour to seek more memberships for us. Thank you for giving me the opportunity of being your National Secretary.

John Bowman.

FRESH EYRE RORT **Port Lincoln 1998**

Looking for a place to really let your hair down and feel that fresh country "Eyre" – then Port Lincoln will be the place for you to come to for the next Rort. Mark the dates Friday 15th May to Sunday 17th May 1998 out in your Diary now to visit an area known as "South Australia's best kept secret spot".

Plans are well in hand by the Port Lincoln Apex40 Club for a Rort of a difference. You might have to "rough it a bit" in our country city of 13,000 people but the locals will make up for it with good old fashioned country hospitality.

The weekend activities will start with your registration and welcome social at the Boston Bay Winery, 6 km North of Port Lincoln overlooking the tranquil waters of Boston Bay. You will find the local drop so good you will want to take some home to remind you of the 1998 Rort.

Saturday it's on the bus for a tour of the area to the Coffin Bay Peninsula, and Lunch at the Coffin Bay Yacht Club,

situated right on the water's edge overlooking the sheltered waters of Coffin Bay, where the usual quick business session will be conducted.

It's then on the bus back to Port Lincoln to get ready for the Dinner Dance arranged at the Lincoln South Football Club rooms.

After the night's Dinner Dance, Sunday morning has been designated as a rest morning, but then it's on the bus for a tour of the Lincoln National Park for a seafood Lunch, with a return trip organised by yacht or bus. It's then on to the local T.A.F.E. College for a skit night "Red Faces" where each club is asked to put on an act. So start practising now for what will be a very enjoyable night.

Monday it's up and down to the Port Lincoln Yacht Club for Smoko (just what you need in our "Fresh Eyre") and it's Farewell for what we promise will be a week-end you'll remember for the rest of your life.

There is no Post Rort Tour being organised this year due to the many attractions of South Australia which can be visited on your way home.

The Port Lincoln Tourist Information Centre, 66 Tasman Terrace Port Lincoln, S.A. 5606, Phone 1800 629 911, our local tourist office, will be only too happy to assist with planning further trips around Port Lincoln and Eyre Peninsula and also on your way home, like the Flinders Ranges and North, or through the Barossa Valley and Clare Valley and visit the many wineries, or North to Coober Pedy to seek out some opals etc.

The registration fee for the Rort is \$190 per person which includes all items as per the itinerary, coach fares to functions and tours, but does not include accommodation or breakfasts. Arrange your own accommodation direct from the list supplied by the Tourist Information Centre. Port Lincoln has a number of Hotels and Motels which are within walking distance of the Civic Town Hall (where our Tourist Information Centre is, 66 Tasman Tce.) which will be the pick up point for the buses.

Registration forms have been posted out to all clubs, so contact your club secretary now for one.

For further enquires contact Rort Chairman Kevin Burner, Phone Work 08 8682 4757, A.H. 08 8682 3951.

AROUND THE BRANCHES.

Alstonville – A number of members journeyed to Stanthorpe for a weekend in August to tour the Queensland 'granite belt' wineries; but they all drank South Australian wines with dinner. In September the club had an outing to the Ballina Players Theatre to see 'Lipstick Dreams'.

Bendigo – Celebrated the 'storming of the Bastille' with a French dinner. Dinner notice reveals that:

The Bastille Castle of St. Antoine was built in about 1370 as part of the fortifications of Paris. It later became a State prison and its storming by a mob on 14th July 1789 set the French Revolution in motion.

The prison Governor and most of the garrison were killed and the building

was razed – and only seven prisoners were found in the castle.

Club has already started planning for hosting the 1999 Rort which will have as its theme 'WINE, DINE and MINE in NINETY-NINE'.

Blue Mountains – Planning a camping weekend to be held in October at an appropriate venue – perhaps Dunn's Swamp!

Forbes – October meeting will take the form of a catered luncheon at a member's home when members will welcome back Apex 40 Inaugural President Ted Tindall and wife Marilyn who will be visiting Forbes from their present home in Port Stephens.

The Great 8 – Two Apex 40 members, Dinner Notice editor Allan Thorley and Joanne Gilmore, assisted as adjudicators at Apex District Public Speaking

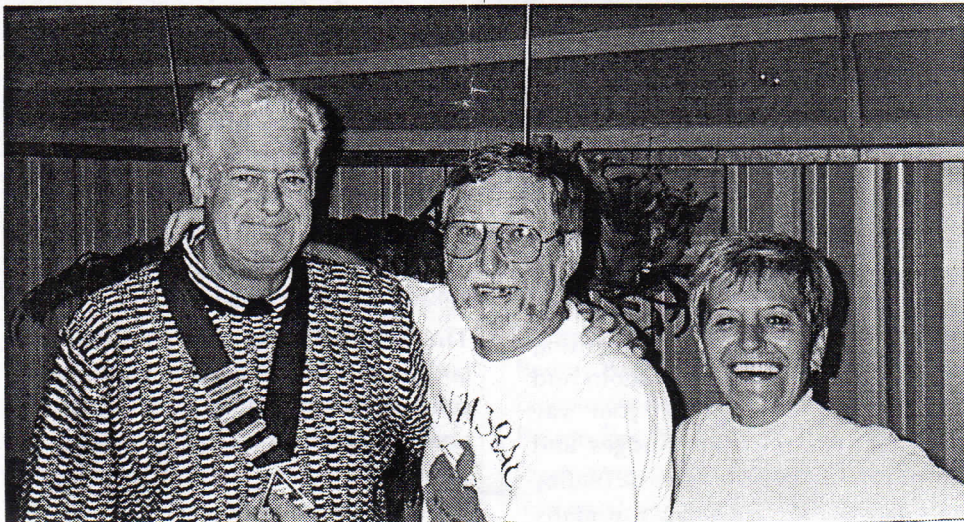
and Debating Finals. (Haven't seen a D.N. since June – Ed.)

Griffith – Rob Keady supplied the following notes on Club activities:

'Twenty-eight members went on a mystery bus trip driven by Gary Lee, one of our members. No one was able to guess where we were at any particular point and our first stop was Miranda Winery for a tasting. Among those present was Albert Robinson, a Foundation Member of Griffith Apex.

The journey continued and not even John Ritchie, the owner of the bus company, knew where we were headed even though all the members were alert to every turn and bump. The body of the evening was spent at the Yoogali Catholic Club, where we had a marvellous meal and fines session.

Our next meeting will be in February



Gerry pulls the chain!

Gerry and Val Hellmann admire the Chain of Office worn by Lavington Apex 40 President Graeme Bathie.

when we will have a late Christmas party for all members and their families'.

Kuala Lumpur – At its meeting in July, members considered the following alternative changes to the constitution;

1. That spouses (ie wives) be given full membership.
2. That spouses be accepted as associate members, without voting rights, cannot hold office and pay a reduced subscription.
3. That there be two types of membership open to spouses, either full membership or associate membership.

The third alternative was carried by a majority vote.

The club has donated a wheel chair to one patient and provided home cooked food and gift packets to all patients of the spinal ward at K.L. General Hospital.

A.G.M. was held in August (*haven't heard from K.L. since – Ed*)

Lake Macquarie – Recent Club activities have included:

- * Tour of Prime Television.
- * Assistance at annual Eisteddfod.
- * Christmas in July (Ladies Night).
- * Ten Pin Bowling and B.B.Q.

In an effort to 'combat the chauvinists who continue to preclude ladies from Apex 40', one of the ladies organised a 'ladies only night' – to see the film *The Full Monty!* (*Good one girls, – Ed*).

Launceston – Six members attended the Caloundra Rort, four of whom stayed for an extended period touring around up north.

Proposing to join with Devonport members for a vineyard tour, wine tasting and luncheon in October.

Malacca – Installation Dinner in June was supported by members from Kuala Lumpur and Seremban as well as some Apexians from Malacca Central and the Apex National Board. Incoming President, Ravindran Royan, led the celebrations later at the Malacca Indian Association.

Ravi is in for his second term as club President; he was Charter President of Malacca Apex 40.

Melbourne/Gippsland – Recent dinner meetings have been held on 'steak night' at the Box Hill Golf Club, where member and past National Secretary Sam McInnes is nearing the end of his three-year term as President.

A large group of members celebrated the running of the Melbourne Cup with a BBQ at the home of Ley and Shirley Garrett where they also welcomed three lady visitors from the Shetland Islands, relatives of President Charlie Burgess. As usual on Cup Day, Charlie ran his 'two-bob' tote which accomodated all the big punters.

Moree – August dinner was held at the Thub Thim Thai Restaurant so that the members could partake of some hot food to get them through the depths of a Moree winter.

Other dinners since have been at the Royal Hotel and the Moree Golf Club – after a round of golf. Membership has increased by three couples since the Apex handover.

The club is looking at the possibility of applying to host the Apex 40 Rort in the year 2000 – the venue for that year's Rort will be decided at Port Lincoln next year.

Morella – Social function planned for September – a bus trip to Wandering to visit the Wandering Brook Estate for lunch. Dinner Notice describes the venue:

'Overlooking the picturesque town of Wandering, the winery and restaurant is constructed of rammed earth and jarrah, set in the hillside surrounded by vines and cherry trees. The first trial vintage was the 1991 Rough Red for friends only. The first picking was crushed by 16 year old virgins in a bathtub hanging off the back of a Holden ute. One of the lasses concerned challenged this writer as to the truth of the matter – "How do you know I'm a virgin?" she was heard to ask.'

Norwesters – Early in the year we went to visit the Werribee Mansion where we all enjoyed inspecting the restored Mansion and the picnic grounds. A very pleasant and relaxing day had by all. We are looking forward to our functions for the rest of the year; visiting a winery and going to the Puffing Billy for a BBQ, brunch at Ackland Street St Kilda, and the Esplanade at St Kilda in December.

Redlands – Held their regular Yuletide dinner in July and planning a Halloween theme dinner in October with everyone wearing black or other appropriate dress.

Christmas function is to be at Dracula's Theatre Restaurant at the Gold Coast.

Seremban – The club's A.G.M. was held at its meeting in May when the following office-bearers were elected:

President – Eddie Tan Hang Lim

Vice President – John Chang

Secretary – L. G. M. Tanaraj

Treasurer – R. Muthusamy

Dinner Notice – K. Pajan Singh

Immed. Past President – Padi Singam

Board Members – D. Harbhajan Singh, K. Chelliah, M. Subramaniam. These new office-bearers took office at an Installation Dinner in June.

Sunraysia – Most recent function was a visit to the Hattah-Kulkyne National Park for a B.B.Q. with some lessons on the history of the area along the way.

Christmas function will be a B.B.Q. at the home of members Richard and Dianne Cavanagh.

The Club has the permanent loan of a well-equipped B.B.Q. trailer from Merbein Apex Club which has now merged with another club.

Sunshine Coast – They eat well at Caloundra – recent dinner meetings have been held at Bella Venizia, Mooloolaba; Beef, Fish and Song at Bullockies, Maroochydore; and a home cooked Thai meal. Chook Rossiter dressed appropriately for the Thai dinner (with a hat that kept slipping off) but according to newsletter scribe "Little Elf Denise", he looked like a Rabbi.

Planning an 'overseas trip' in November via the Brisbane River and Morton Bay to the Tangalooma Resort on Morton Island.

Wyong – They like their food in Wyong too! Recent dinners have included the Captain's Table Carvery at Warners Lodge; Bistro at the Central Coast Masonic Club; Jan's Chinese and Malaysian Restaurant at The Entrance; El Lago Waters Resort, The Entrance.

In October, six couples enjoyed a weekend at Hawkes Nest on Port Stephens, where the Prime Minister has a holiday cottage – but he wasn't home.

September saw the club's A.G.M. and election of new President Allan Kember and Secretary Margaret Dunn. (*Congratulations and best wishes for your term in office. Ed.*)

Will be joining Wyong Apex Club in

celebrating its 1000th dinner, coming up in November; as there are only two clubs left on the coast this is quite an achievement. There will be quite a few old timers there to reminisce and challenge other members to how good their memories are.

Werribee – Club members played host to members from Bendigo and Melbourne/Gippsland clubs in October with a spit-roast lunch at the home of Peter and Betty Sammartino. The day was well attended by members of both visiting clubs who enjoyed the hospitality of the Werribee members. After-lunch games included croquet and boules/petanque/whatever!

JOINT MEETING OF MALAYSIAN APEX 40 CLUBS

K. Pajan Singh, Dinner Notice Editor of Seremban club, sent in some information and photos from the combined Apex 40 Clubs meeting held earlier in the year and mentioned in K.L. Club notes in the last issue of "Roaring 40's".

It was good to see members from K.L. Apex 40, Melaka Apex 40 and Seremban Apex 40 meet with their wives and children to make a meeting filled with wonderful fellowship and fruitful discussion

The place, the N.S. Transport Employers' Association, was available with the kind assistance of Harbhajan, who unfortunately had to be hospitalised for unexpected heart attack, on the same evening, was very quiet and convenient for the joint meeting.

The meeting was a success from attendance, food and drinks and co-operation point of view. All those who attended were happy and left with no regrets, but those who were absent have missed another good opportunity to celebrate an unforgettable night; it was the 15th March, 1997.

The attendance was as follows:-

K.L. Apex 40 – 11 members and wives, not including the children.

Melaka Apex 40 – 3 members, no wives and no children.

Seremban Apex 40 – 12 members, 2 wives, 4 children and 1 guest.

Damage: 2 cartons (24x2) beer cans. 2 Scotch whisky finished to the last drop. Plenty of food and soft drinks.

There were games and jokes competition

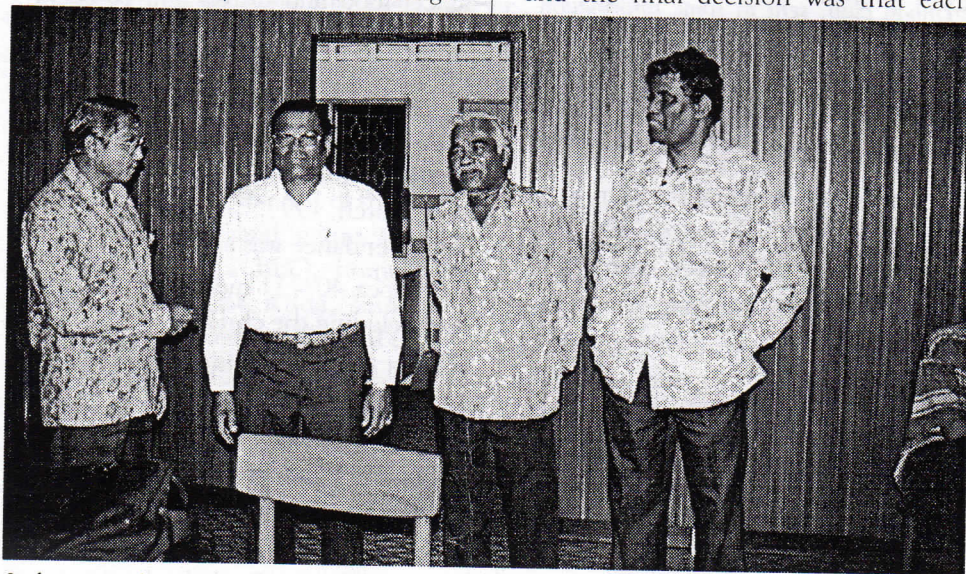


Kualar Lumpur, Malacca and Serembam members at the combined dinner

for which the prizes were donated by K.L. Apex 40. Thank you!

A short but worthy talk on the changes

in the age limit in the Apex Movement was held. Many views were forthcoming and the final decision was that each



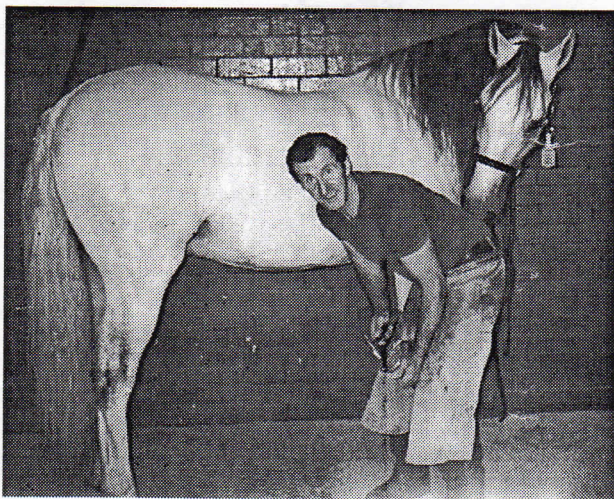
Induction of member Sivalingam by Apex Life Governor M. Tanaraj.

club is free to make the final move to or not to go back to the Apex Association. On behalf of the club I wish to thank the Presidents of Apex 40 K.L. and Melaka and their members for the unlimited support received in making the joint-meeting a success, D. Harbhajan Singh for the efforts made

to obtain approval for the use of the hall, President Padi Singam for the food arrangement, R. Muthusamy for the ordering of the drinks, and the donors of the 'Fire-Water' Padi Singam, John Chang and Pajan.

Once again thank-you to those who have been left out unintentionally.

SOMETHING TO CROW ABOUT



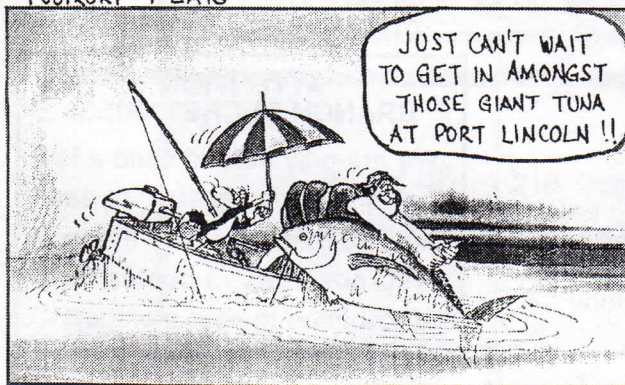
No doubt most of us saw something of the Royal Lippizzaner Stallions, the famous dancing white stallions from Vienna, on their recent tour of Australia, if not in the flesh then on the television.

Werribee Apex 40 member Peter Sammartino (AKA The Rooster) got closer to them than most. Peter, a farrier by trade, was called on to shoe the beautiful animals during their enforced quar-

antine stay in Melbourne, using their special tungsten-tipped horseshoes.

Shoeing the stars is nothing new to Peter; one of his regular customers is Kerry Packer who has his ponies shod by Peter when he comes to Werribee to play polo.

FOOTPORT FLATS



VALE

Sadly, we record the passing of Melbourne/Gippsland member

BILL NEWTON
and

Moree member
STEPHANIE JARRATT.

Our sympathy to Jean Newton and Alex Jarratt and their families.

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
28th February, 1998.**

- 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

NATIONAL PRESIDENT

Malcolm Clark (*Marian*)
Lot 1 Allinga Road,
Warnervale,
Wyong, NSW, 2259
(02) 4392 2129

NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER

John Bowman (*Sandra*)
23 George Street,
Wyong,
NSW, 2259
(02) 4352 1234

NATIONAL EXTENSION CHAIRMAN

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

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.