

# ROARING 40's

POST BENDIGO RORT ISSUE



FOR CONTINUING FELLOWSHIP

**JULY 1999**

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

# ANNUAL REPORT APEX 40 NATIONAL BOARD

## National President's Report

Welcome to the 24th Annual Rort to continue the great fellowship we experienced in Apex.

As promised last year, we join you at the annual Rort at Bendigo, which will be another memorable occasion that Marian and I look forward to sharing with you.

I thank you all for the opportunity to serve Apex 40 as your National President. In my younger days I wanted to serve Apex at District and Zone level but left the run a bit late, preferring to spend more time with a growing family. Sad to say I was defeated in elections a few times and I never made it, but never mind it is the trying that is important. So it was with great pleasure that I took over as your National President.

We are attracting more members and more clubs, and this year will be one to remember for our organisation, with the coming to fruition of Kevin Huxham's quest to arrange a trip to Canada. Sad to say my work commitments in the Philippines will not allow me to join the group in Canada. Kevin's efforts to promote a tri-nations Rort in 2000 with Apex 40, South Africa, and New Zealand, are also very much appreciated.

My thanks to other members of the Apex 40 coordinating committee who have made my job very easy and allowed me to continue as your president. Past president Garth Whitchurch has kept in touch to make sure we do the things that need to be done and assisted Secretary/Treasurer John Bowman and me in a number of ways, thank you Garth. He has also kept in touch with Apex for US and helped to keep networks open for people seeking news of old friends and promoted the start up of new clubs. Secretary/treasurer John Bowman (with more than a little help from Sandra) has made sure that we keep in touch with you

through the Roaring 40's. I must also thank Alan Kinder and Alan Padgham for their terrific efforts in putting together our newsletter, which continues to be of a very high standard. Padge is pretty capable with computers and our communication via the internet has helped me to keep in touch, he also sent me the Roaring 40's complete with photographs via the internet (the postal system in the Philippines leaves a little to be desired). We have looked forward to reading about life in your respective Apex 40 clubs.

We have settled in to life in the Philippines and are involved in a number of things now (Rotary, Toastmasters, Hash House Harriers) and if it wasn't so hot all the time it wouldn't be too bad. No doubt we'll talk to you about some of these things. The cost of living is lower here and \$\$'s go a long way. We have a couple of spare bedrooms so please come and visit before next March if you would like to sample life in the Philippines.

I can be contacted via the internet at <malclark@cebu.webling.com> or phone Philippines 63 32 2530~37.

Apex gave us so much and we have enjoyed our involvement with Apex 40 immensely, especially the last two years, and I thank you all.

It is now time for someone else to take over the reins as National President of Apex 40, please let me know if you are interested in taking on the job.

I wish you all good fellowship, good health and we look forward to enjoying the lasting friendships we have developed with you all.

*Mal Clark.*

## Secretary/Treasurer's Report

Well here I am writing my last report. How time flies when you are rotting around having fun. As National Secretary of Apex 40 for the past two years, a growing concern of mine is the lack of communication between the affiliated Clubs of Apex 40 and the National Board.

We ask that you take into account the constitution rules: "All branches are to hold an AGM between 1st October and 30th November each year at which office bearers are elected and annual club subscriptions set". This then allows the new names and addresses of the President and Secretary to be updated when you send the affiliation fee to the National Treasurer by the 31st December each year. At this point of time we have approximately 1200 financial members, which is made up of 40 clubs, including members at large.

As from year 2000 the membership per capita will be \$2.00 per couple, which

was passed at the AGM at Port Lincoln.

Many thanks must go to Alan Padgham and Alan Kinder who have been putting the Roaring 40's together and keeping the Register up to date for Apex 40, without them I don't know where we would be, especially when Apex Clubs are folding all around us.

To Garth Whitchurch, thank you from the members and clubs which you have helped over the past year.

To our Canadian touring group, led by Kevin and Liz Huxham, we wish them Bon Voyage and happy touring and safe return to our sunny shores. Thank you to Bendigo for hosting this Rort, and to Moree Club for taking the hosting for the year 2000.

I thank Malcolm for giving me the opportunity of being his secretary and wish the new board all the best for the next term.

*John Bowman. National Secretary*

## National Extension Chairman & Apex Liaison Report

This year extension has been slow, but has also seen Apex start to take an interest in Apex 40, and from their National President Mike President and his Board, the encouragement for Apex Clubs to form an Apex 40 Club.

New clubs have been started at Baulkham Hills in Sydney and Moonta S.A, down at York Peninsula (as a result of contact from Port Lincoln Club), while Hobart in Tasmania has got going again (or are now in contact with us). During the year I visited Apex's National Convention at Ballarat and also addressed their Victorian annual Education Seminar.

I also visited Echuca Apex Club and addressed some past members there, so we could have a new Club soon.

As Apex Liaison I have been a contact between Apex and Apex 40, and basical-

ly to pass on information or answer questions from the Apex Clubs and update Apex with our own executive.

For those of you who can remember back to being in Apex 20 years ago, the Apex Children's Chalet at Smiggins Hole is having an official celebration for their 20 years on 20th October 1999, with a tour also planned afterwards for approximately one week. If you would like more information contact Anniversary Chairman Bob Harrison on (02) 9528 9089 or write to P.O. Box 583, Engadine, NSW, 2233.

If you have any queries on membership or about Apex, write to me at 1/18 Severn Street, Box Hill North, Vic. 3129 (phone/fax 03 9898 7473) or e-mail: <garth@ats.mel.net>.

*Garth Whitchurch*

## International Relations Report

The highlight of the past term would have to be the forthcoming tour as guests of K-40 Clubs of Canada which will depart Australia on August 8 for a period of 27 days.

The tour was fully subscribed within about a week of the details being released and we currently have a full compliment of 52 participants.

It will take in a week long cruise to Alaska staying in three ports of Ketchikan, Juneau and Skagway after the first couple of days on Vancouver Island.

We then meander our way both by train and coach through the provinces of British Columbia and Alberta, taking in the many glorious sights of the Canadian Rockies along with other scenery.

The tour is almost all home hosted by our counterpart organisation K-40 ("over the hill" members of Kinsmen Clubs of Canada) except for about five nights.

The beauty of this type of tour is that you live with real Canadian hosts in their home, rather than going from hotel to hotel and only mixing with tourists.

### Tri-Nations Rort - 2000

The Moree Rort in 2000 should see a number of overseas visitors in the form of Round Table 41'ers from New Zealand and South Africa in attendance. This is being organised by Derek Clarke from South Africa who has tried to persuade New Zealand members to

transfer their conference to Moree.

It has always been a dream of mine that we could transfer our Rort to coincide with New Zealand's Conference and add in about 10 days of home hosting whilst visiting their beautiful country. For them to reciprocate and have maximum numbers in attendance, we would need to have our Rort (in the year they come back) along or not too far inland from the east coastline.

If there were no nominations for 2001, perhaps this would be the opportune time to put this idea into action. Food for thought.

### Bendigo Rort

Unfortunately we will not be able to attend this year's Rort in Bendigo, due to commitments up here. In October this year, Liz and myself will be embarking on a working holiday around Australia with our caravan and 4WD for probably three years, and we will try to visit members and clubs on the way.

Because of this, I believe it would be best to step away from the International Relations portfolio and let someone who is easily contactable take over the position.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members for their support, including those on the current board, and wish the incoming board lots of success. It is a wonderful organisation, keep it going!

On to the Rort!

*Kevin Huxham*

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National Apex 40 Financial Statement 1998/99  
(as at 31/3/99)

1997/98		1998/1999
	<u>INCOME</u>	
797.00	Affiliation Fees	\$835.00
70.00	Badge receipts	Nil
102.35	Rort 98 fines	\$250.00
2.63	Interest	\$ 1.32
75.00	Car stickers	Nil
<u>\$1,046.98</u>		<u>\$1,086.32</u>
	<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
6.92	Bank fees	\$ 9 90
363.62	Postage	\$ 270 75
Nil	Per capitas to Apex	\$ 79.70
Nil	Stationery	\$ 60.45
429.00	Roaring 40's (SNAP)	\$ 486.00
33.00	Cheque reversed	Nil
Nil	Engraving	\$ 8.95
<u>\$832.54</u>	<u>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</u>	<u>\$ 915.75</u>
	<u>RECONCILIATION</u>	
\$1,514.49	Balance B/F	\$1,728.93
\$ 214.44	Surplus	\$ 170.57
<u>\$1,728.93</u>	Balance C/F	<u>\$1,899.50</u>

*Outgoing Nat. President Malcolm Clark doesn't look at all concerned that he is about to be guest of honour at a lynching party.*

*Read about the train hold up on page 8 in the Roaring 40's.*



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## NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT



**H**ello Apex 40 Members One and All. It was great to see so many of you at the Bendigo Rort catching up with old friends and making new ones.

I would like to congratulate the Bendigo Apex 40 Club for a job extremely well done in organising a first class program for the Rort and also the post-Rort tour. The Rort boasted 150 registrations with Apex 40 members coming from Broome to Perth, down the East Coast of Australia and Tasmania. I am sure you will all agree it was an action packed fun weekend and to the Bendigo Club, a special thank you on behalf of all who attended.

Kevin Huxham's Apex 40 tour to Canada gets under way in August and those members lucky enough to be going are in for a great treat. Congratulations Kevin for organising such a grand tour.

The annual general meeting of the National Apex 40 organisation took place towards the end of the Rort and I was indeed honoured to be elected as the National President of such a great organisation. I will be ably assisted by Ray Despot from the Redlands Apex 40 Club as Secretary Treasurer. Garth Whitchurch has again been elected to improving relationships with Apex, which he has carried out admirably over the last few years, and will remain on the Board with the responsibility of Apex liaison and Extension/Membership Chairman. Brian Roach has also been elected to the Board as International Relations Officer and he is heading off on the Canada trip with Kevin Huxham on his first assignment!!!! Recognition should also be given to the 'communicators', Alan Kinder and Alan Padgham, for their untiring efforts in editing the Roaring 40's magazine which, as we all know, gives us an insight into what is happening around Australia with other Apex 40 Clubs. A special thanks to these members for nominating and offering to assist me for the next 2 years in their various portfolios.

The Rort venues for the next two years have been decided upon and both Marg and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible in Moree in the year 2000 and then in the Grampians in the year 2001.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking past President Malcolm Clark and his wife Marian and also John and Sandy Bowman for guiding our high profile organisation along the straight and narrow over the past two years.

During my two years as President I would like to see more Apex 40 mem-

bers and more clubs as, I think you would all agree, it is nice to renew Apex friendships once the age limit ostracised us from the organisation and it is nice to meet new ex-Apexians. Let's not keep it to ourselves, let's get behind Garth in his role as Extension/Membership Chairman and increase our membership markedly over the next 2 years. If we do this we might also assist the Apex

Clubs in increasing their membership as I have no doubt that there are many Apex 40 members who have sons of eligible Apex age and we would like to see them involved.

Until our next Roaring 40's issue I take this opportunity of wishing you good health.

Yours in Apex 40,

*David Cameron, National President*

## **RORT REPORT**

**W**e Wined, Dined and Mined at the Bendigo Rort. As they have done on two previous occasions, Bendigo Apex 40 turned on a Rort to be remembered.

The All Seasons Motel was the centre of activities and the venue for the Welcome Social on Friday evening. During the evening the Mayor of the City of Greater Bendigo welcomed all Rorters and wished them well for the weekend. Moree members, prominently arrayed in distinctive caps and shirts of locally grown cotton, took the opportunity to promote their forthcoming Moree Rort Two Double Nought with a video display and handouts describing the tourist highlights of Moree and the Newell Highway. 'Sticker Man', Mark Tramby, kept busy sticking stickers on anyone or any thing that moved exhorting us to "Get With The Push – Come To The Bush" at the Moree Rort Two Double Nought. As usual, it was a time for catching up with friends we haven't seen since last year.

On Saturday morning we were taken to Central Deborah Gold Mine where

most of us went 60 metres underground in our safety helmets and miners' lamps but no-one managed to bring up any gold. Then it was off on the talking tram, past many of the City's impressive architectural gems of last century and on to the Tramways Museum with its wonderful collection of trams from the past. The lawn area and gardens in front of the grandstand at the Bendigo racecourse provided an attractive venue for lunch. After lunch we visited the Chinese Museum with its colourful displays of the history of the Chinese population in the gold-rush days. The major item in the museum is the 300 metre long dragon, Sun Loong – the largest of



*The sign on the historic 'Birney' tram says: "These Birneys are Very Rare". Perhaps we could also say that about the two Bernies – Bernie Kenney (Norwesters) on the left and Bernie O'Keefe (Terang).*

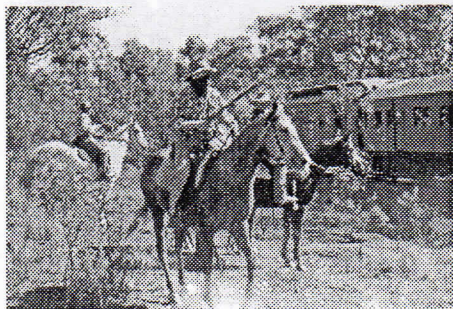


its kind in the world, which is paraded each year during the Easter festivities, Saturday night's dinner dance was held at the All Seasons with dance music provided by the band "Innsound" and vocalist Tania. Later in the night many Rorters headed for the 'pokies' in the nearby gaming room.



Saturday night dinner. L to R: Narelle & Phil Consalvo (Alstonville), Nola Kinder Melb/Gipps), Kevin Harvey (Bendigo), Alan Kinder and Ros & Peter Chessell (Grafton)

On Sunday we travelled in buses to historic Maldon, Victoria's first National Trust classified township, and after a wander around under the old verandahs of this well preserved town of the gold mining era, we boarded a steam train for a trip to Muckleford. Along the way the



Bushrangers bail up the train en route to Muckleford

train was beset by a mob of mounted bushrangers who dragged National President Malcolm off the train and into the bush where they had a noose suspended from a tree. They threatened to hang Mal unless the rest of us came up with a sizeable ransom. Despite pleas of "hang him, he's only a pom" and "he's not worth a zac" the bushrangers relented after collecting \$2.65 for his ransom! Actually, they collected close to \$70 which will be used towards the continued upkeep of the historic train.

At Muckleford we disembarked for a barbecue lunch in a bush setting and were then entertained by bush

minstrels Barry, an ex-Apexian from Stratford, Vic., and brother, Ian. Barry further entertained us with a rollicking story about the running of the Goornong Cup. An unscheduled event took place when an unsuspecting Margaret O'Neill (Bendigo) was taken



A bus load (or two) of Rorters at the Tramways Museum

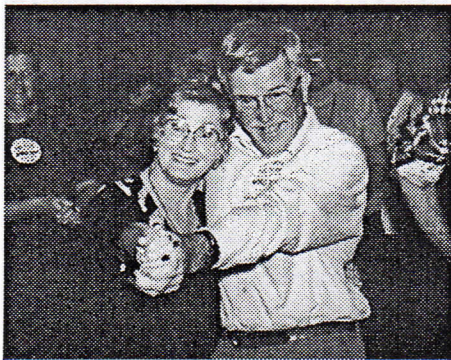


*Margaret O'Neill (winner of the Wizzy) exits the travelling dunny at Muckleford*

for a ride (by bus driver, Ken) in a portable dunny. This feat clearly earned Margaret the 'Wizzy' trophy which was awarded later that night. During the afternoon a raffle was held to collect more money for the steam train and was won by Melva Banks (Sunraysia) who got to ride on the footplate and to drive the train back to Maldon.

On return to Bendigo we were taken to the famous old Bendigo Pottery where we were treated to tastings of a wide range of local wines and to afternoon tea. We returned to the Pottery again that evening for the 'Miners' Shindig'. After dinner, Malcolm conducted the traditionally brief Annual General Meeting. A call for nominations for National President for the next two years resulted in the nomination and election of David Cameron of Redlands Apex 40. David thanked Rorters for their confidence in electing him to that position and indicated that he expected that fellow Redlands member Ray Despot, who was unable to attend this year's Rort, would be prepared to take on the position of National Secretary-Treasurer. Kevin Huxham (Alstonville)

indicated that he wished to relinquish the position of International Relations Chairman as he and Liz propose to become gypsies for the next couple of years. Brian Roach (Melbourne-Gippsland) was elected to take over that position. Leon Squires gave a run down on preparations in hand by Moree club for next year's Rort and for a post-Rort tour of outback NSW. (See report elsewhere in this issue) An offer was made by Peter Miller (Portland) and Rob 'Wombat' Walter (Heywood) on behalf of their clubs to host the 2001 Rort at Halls Gap in the Grampians in western Victoria. A fines session was held with Leon Squires and Danny Bourke (Moree) and Alan Flaherty (Melbourne-Gippsland) as fines masters. A special fine was levied by Bendigo President Bob Caldwell on David Bidmade (Bendigo) who brought us up to date on the Continuing Saga of "The Trish and Bernie Show".



*The 'Trish & Bernie Show' hits town at the Miners' Shindig*

On a more serious note, Bob introduced the members of the Rort organising committee who were received with great applause for the work they had all put



*Portland Rorters Liz Radley, Anne & Terry Mewha and Kevin Radley whooping it up at the 'shindig'.*

into arranging an interesting and extremely enjoyable weekend for us. Formal proceedings were wound up with presentation of the following awards:

'Penultimate' trophy (for best dinner notice) – Melbourne/Gippsland, Editor – Alan Padgham

Attendance trophy – Morella, WA

'Wizzy' trophy – Margaret O'Neill (Bendigo)

Entertainment – Bendigo (for arranging train hold-up/lynching party)



*Breakfast in the park on Monday morning seated, from left: Neil Nielson (Wyong), Margaret Bowman (Wyong), Lorraine Burgess & Jan Padgham (Melb/Gipps), Elayne Andrew (Bendigo), Neville Bowman (Wyong) & Meryl Clarke (Bendigo) handing out goodies.*

Music for dancing was provided by 'Nostalgia', with John on guitar and Vivienne on bass guitar who also sang and gave some outstanding impersonations of Louis Armstrong, Fats Waller, Engelbert Humperdink, Elvis, and Neil Diamond! With last year's bus trip to Port Lincoln in mind, Peter Miller had suggested to the proprietor that he should stock up with Kahlua, so the 'milk shakes' were on late in the night!

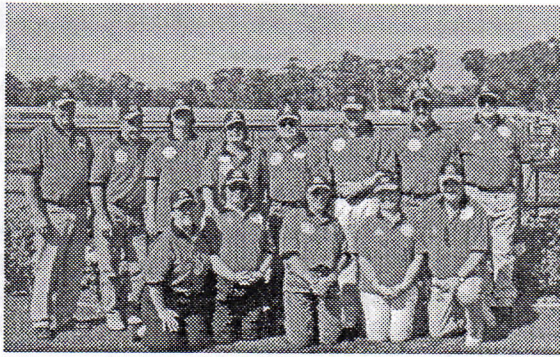
On Monday morning we all gathered at Strathdale Park, just a short walk from the All Seasons, for a farewell breakfast of bacon, eggs, sausages, pancakes, etc. cooked for us by Bendigo members. Rorters said their goodbyes and promised to catch up again next year at Moree. The unanimous opinion was that it had been "another great Rort!"



*Bacon, eggs & sausages for Monday's breakfast. L to R: Peter Dumont (Bendigo), Barbara Neate & Shirley Garrett (Melb/Gipps), Elaine Dumont, Ross O'Neill (Bendigo) & Ley Garrett.*

There was a sad note at the end of the Rort when we learned that Ray Wilkinson (Wyong) had suffered a stroke at his motel on Monday morning and had been admitted to Bendigo Hospital. Ray has remained in hospital at Bendigo and Sue has been looked

after very well by the hospital people, who provided accommodation for her in the nurses quarters. Latest report is that Ray is still in Bendigo hospital after some further complications but now appears to be progressing well and hopes soon to be moved back to the Central Coast. Several of the Bendigo members have been visiting Ray and have been very supportive of Sue. I am sure that all Apex 40 members wish Ray a complete recovery and that he and Sue can soon return home to be among family and friends.



*Some of our Moree Rort Hosts at Bendigo Racecourse. Back L to R: Ken Taylor, John Hennessy, Trish Hennessy, Janelle Brown, Cliff Brown, Danny Bourke, Leon Squires (Rort Comm. Chair), Ian Swayn. Front L to R: Pam Swayn, Rosemary Tramby, Cheryle Squires, Esma Bourke, Mark Tranby*

## POST-RORT TOURS

For those who stayed on in Bendigo after the Rort, the daily tours were interesting and very enjoyable. On Monday, after the farewell breakfast, we had time to have a look around the central shopping area of Bendigo and then, after lunch, we were taken on a walking tour of some of the city's heritage features with guides who were well versed in the historical importance of the area. For dinner that night we dined Chinese style at the Imperial Palace restaurant.

On Tuesday we travelled to Echuca, stopping along the way at Elmore to visit the new H.V.McKay museum which highlights the achievements of the designer of the famous Sunshine Combine Harvester. At Echuca we took a cruise along the Murray River on the paddle steamer Canberra and enjoyed a buffet lunch on board. In the afternoon we had time to look around the historic Port of Echuca before heading for Bickley's Barn

for a very nice dinner in an unusual setting and the opportunity for some dancing and a fines session. On the road out to Bickleys we passed John Farnham's extremely prosperous looking country estate where he breeds stock horses.

Wednesday saw us off to Lockwood where we visited a mohair farm where they spin not only mohair yarn but also yarns from alpaca, camel and possum! The possum yarn has become known in overseas markets as 'Tasmanian Mink'. We then went on to a butterfly farm where we had a very interesting talk within the butterfly enclosure by the proprietor and then lunch in their licensed restaurant. After lunch we went on to Castlemaine where we checked out the jail, now a reception centre, then browsed around in the 'Restoration Barn' which housed the greatest accumulation of restored tools, furniture, crockery and just about any-

thing else you could imagine. Next we had a guided tour of the National Trust classified, historic residence 'Buda', the one time home of the Leviny family, where we had afternoon tea and a wander around the extensive garden. Dinner that night was at the Egion Greek Tavern back in Bendigo where we enjoyed a sumptuous banquet and learnt a little of Greek dancing, Zorba style, from the proprietress.

Thursday was wine tasting day! First, the McIvor Creek winery where we also had morning tea and then on to Chateau Tahbilk at Nagambie where we were taken on a tour of the historic cellars. Next, the Mitchelton winery beside the Goulburn River where we had a delightful lunch in their restaurant, washed down with some of the local produce. That night we stayed home for a barbecue dinner in the new swimming pool complex at the All Seasons.

On Friday morning we were taken on a very informative and interesting walking tour of the Victoria Hill gold dig-

gings at Bendigo by guide/historian, James Lerk, then across the road to the Gold Mines hotel for a much better than normal pub lunch. After lunch we paid a visit to the Bendigo Art Gallery where we were welcomed by the President of the gallery, ex-Apexian John Higgs. A special exhibition on display was a collection of Opera costumes. Our last night together was spent with dinner at Pratty's Patch, an interesting old hotel at Maiden Gully where they serve the biggest rib-eye steaks you could possibly imagine! And they served a nice 'milk shake'!

It was a great week, in the company of good friends including a number of Bendigo members who joined us on the tours, and we were kept entertained by our jovial bus driver Ken who only managed to get us lost a couple of times. Thanks to Bendigo members for organising a week of fun and enjoyment and especially to those who joined us on the tours. I'm sure all visiting Rorters thoroughly enjoyed themselves.



Beside the Goulbourn River at Mitchelton Winery. L to R: Ian & Bev Foss (Morella), Ross O'Neill (Bendigo), Marge Flaherty (Melb-Gipps), Glyn & Dawn McKay (Redlands), Nola Kinder (Melb-Gipps), Malcolm & Elayne Andrew (Bendigo), Garth Whitchurch & Alan Flaherty (Melb-Gipps).

## GET WITH THE PUSH

### Get With The Push Come To The Bush

#### Moree Rort, Two Triple Nought

An exciting program has been prepared for the Year 2000 Rort to be hosted by Moree (NSW) Apex 40 and for a Post-Rort tour around out-back NSW. The Rort will be held over the weekend of 12 -15 May with the option of a 3 night/4 day tour to follow.

The Rort will commence with the traditional welcome gathering on the Friday night, with a light supper to be served. Saturday morning will allow time for shopping and a historic walk of Moree town, followed by the AGM at lunchtime and a tour of a Pecan Nut farm in the afternoon. Saturday night's dinner dance will have a bush theme.

Sunday morning will feature an optional breakfast at Moree's famous Hot Mineral Spa Complex and in the afternoon the local cotton industry will be featured with a visit to a cotton farm and tour of a cotton gin, with lunch along the way. Sunday night's formal dinner dance will feature a Rhythm and Blues Choir and a Bush Poet.

There will be a farewell brunch on Monday morning after which the post-Rort "Back of Bourke Tour" will depart for the first overnight stop at the "Opal Capital of the World" - Lightning Ridge. Next day the tour around far western NSW will have lunch at Bourke and overnight at Nyngan, the scene of one of Australia's greatest battles with floodwaters, which was unfortunately lost. The last night of the tour will be spent at Coonabarabran, home to the Siding Springs Astronomical Observatory. The next day

there will be a visit to the Warrambungles National Park with its unique rock formations, then a visit to the Australia Telescope at Narrabri before returning to Moree when there will be the option of staying another night and enjoying the company of Moree Apex 40 members at a special post-Rort dinner meeting. Cost of the tour has not yet been finalised but should be around \$350 per person, twin-share, including dinner and breakfast throughout.

Accommodation for the Rort will be principally at the Burke and Wills Motel, the official Rort Motel, located on the Newell Highway about 1 km from the centre of town. Special prices will be available for bookings through the Rort Committee. The Gwydir Carapark & Artesian Thermal Pools will be just the spot for those bringing their caravans, perhaps to continue north after the Rort. There is a good range of accommodation available also at the Carapark in Cabins and Villas.

Registration forms for both the Rort and the "Back of Bourke Tour" with details of accommodation and Rort function costs, and final costing for the tour, will be forwarded to all clubs later in the year.

Indications are that there are likely to be a number of Round Table 41-ers from New Zealand and South Africa attending the Rort.

If you wish to know more about the post-Rort tour before registration forms are out, you can ring Moree Apex 40 member Mark Tramby (who is organising the tour) at M & G Travel, Moree on toll-free 1800 677 512.

## SOUTH AFRICANS ON TOUR

As indicated in the previous article, a party of ex-Round Tablers from South Africa will be attending next year's Rort at Moree. At this time it appears that there will be at least four couples, and probably more, who will arrive in Australia on 5th May at Melbourne where they will spend a few days before travelling on to Sydney and then on to Alstonville before heading for Moree and the Rort. After the Rort they will be heading over to New Zealand for a tour of the North Island before crossing over to the South Island for a train trip down to Christchurch then back to Blenheim (near Nelson) to attend the AGM of New Zealand

41ers (ex-Round Tables) in early June.

This will be a good opportunity for Apex 40 members who may be interested to join the South Africans on their tour of New Zealand. While the South Africans will be spending a few days in Brisbane immediately after the Rort before travelling to New Zealand, Apex 40 members could leave after the post-Rort tour (say 20th or 21st May) and catch up with the South Africans in New Zealand.

If you are interested and would like to know more about this opportunity, please give Brian Roach a call on 03-9802 1063 (after 6.00 pm).

## AROUND THE BRANCHES

**ALSTONVILLE:** A good night's ten-pin bowling in March, although not a big roll-up. David Huett and Liz Huxham were the stars. President David Besson thought the bowls had got heavier than when he was younger, or so his shoulder told him the next morning!

A wonderful evening of food and fellowship at the Lao Thai restaurant in April, and in May there will be a Pizza and film night. President David and Marie should be home by then after their tour of vineyards in the Barossa Valley following the Bendigo Rort.

**BENDIGO:** February meeting was held at the home of Marg and Ross O'Neill. This was the Annual General Meeting and Bob and Anne Caldwell were elected to serve another year as President and Sec./Treas. respectively.

A 'Picnic in the Park' is planned for March at the White Hills Botanical Gardens.

**FORBES:** In February, members went by bus to Young for a Sunday lunch at Demondrille Winery and Restaurant, after a look around and a taste of their wines. The 3 course lunch menu was planned around the wines selected at the tasting. May dinner is at Adrian's licensed restaurant.

**GEELONG:** At their April meeting, members joined with Grovedale Apex members at their clubrooms. The meeting was a 'Bring a Guest' night with a view to seeking new members for the Apex club whose membership has been on the decline. Two new members were inducted. May meeting will be at the Bamboleo restaurant which features

Spanish and Mediterranean cuisine; pool and pokies to follow.

**LAKE MACQUARIE:** February dinner was a Ladies' Night and joint meeting with Wallsend and Lake Macquarie Apex Clubs with guest speaker Maree Lamb, talking about her experiences in the 1998 Sydney to Hobart on the yacht 'Inner Circle'. The dinner was attended by Apex National President, Mike Neville, and Executive Director, Andrew Phillips who were on their way to the Apex State Convention at Port Macquarie.

March meeting was a fellowship night at Bayside Tavern and May meeting was another Ladies' Night at a combined dinner with Newcastle Oasis Club. Guest speaker was the project manager of SKIA - Support Kooragang International Airport - a group promoting the Newcastle/Hunter Region as the preferred site for a further international airport for NSW above the other options under consideration, including Badgery's

Creek, Lithgow and Goulburn.

May meeting will be a 'State of Origin' night at the Iron Horse hotel, Cardiff with dinner followed by the big match on the big screen.

**LAUNCESTON:** February meeting was a get together at the home of Les and Lynne Rowlings when members welcomed expatriates Jenny and Ian Jackson from Darwin. Jenny is teaching on a cattle station a couple of hours drive out of Darwin and Ian is relief teaching here, there and everywhere around the territory.

March meeting was at the Wok and Grill Restaurant.

**LISMORE:** "April meeting was a car rally hosted by the Murphys and, after a two hour drive through the roughest country roads possible, we ended up at a restaurant at the Mallanganee Lookout for a fantastic lunch overlooking the mountains. June meeting will see the club return to the ever-popular 20,000



*Lismore members enjoying lunch and a drink or two after a "gruelling" car rally.*



Cows Vegie Restaurant where, once again, the wine is sure to be flowing.

July meeting will coincide with our 'junior club' change-over and our August meeting will be a family weekend away at the Gold Coast. Plans are under way for the tri-nations Rort at Moree in 2000 – look out Moree!"

MELBOURNE-GIPPSLAND: March meeting was a picnic at the Upper Yarra Dam with a morning tea stop at Warburton on the way up. As a result of the inclement (ie. p...ing down) weather, only a few brave souls ventured forth to enjoy lunch in the shelter of what was the original mess hall during construction of the dam. After lunch the rain had stopped enabling a walk through the bush along the river.

May dinner was again at the Dandenong TAFE College where the food and service is exceptional.

MOREE: March dinner was at the home of Vic and Jenny Elsley and in April members met for dinner at the New Orchid Thai Restaurant.

A good contingent from Moree attended the Bendigo Rort to publicise the Moree Rort Two Triple Nought.

REDLANDS: February's progressive dinner was a great success with 56 members participating. Even the weather behaved itself. In April, members will celebrate the first singing of *Waltzing Matilda* at the North Gregory Hotel in Winton in April 1895. They are not going to Winton for the night! Just to the Koala Motel at nearby Wakerly.

SUNRAYSIA: March meeting was the

club's Annual General Meeting, with the usual barbecue, at Annette and Graeme Duffy's residence. (*Haven't heard since to see if there was a change in office bearers. Ed.*)

SUNSHINE COAST: February function was a Great Aussie Barbecue at Maxwell Park. Most were in good form by the end of the evening, having sampled some of Hilton Maxwell's port. March outing was a Thai banquet at Thai Supoan restaurant. The club has purchased an awning for use on weekend camping expeditions; next planned camping trip is to the Noosa North Shore Wilderness Park on Queen's Birthday in June.

THE GREAT EIGHT: A fun time at the Irish pub, the Imperial, in Maitland for the March dinner. Another 'Imperial' for the April dinner, this time the Imperial Chinese Restaurant. Dinner notice editor suspects this may be a last fling on the eve of the Republic! A coincidence? or an attempt at some sort of mass subconscious therapy by anonymous monarchists within the club!

WYONG: March outing was a cruise around Tuggerah Lakes on the 'Little Ferry'; something different which was enjoyed by all. April dinner was at the Pepper Tree restaurant and some members are off to see the Wyong Drama Group's latest show, 'Hot Taps', in May. Dinner meeting for May is to be at the Canton Chinese restaurant where the owners have promised not to have the same waitress as last time – "so there will be no need to wear rain hats at the table!"

## DINNER NOTICE HUMOUR

**Alstonville:** Our cat is dead. I know they're supposed to have nine lives – unfortunately, the semi had 18 wheels.

You know you're getting old when you have to install a bifocal peephole in your front door.

You know you've reached middle age when your knees buckle but your seat belt won't.

**Forbes:** Who was the nasty person who decided to spell "lisp" with an "s" in it?

Why is abbreviation such a long word?

What's another word for thesaurus?

If you are a "born again" something, do you get another belly button?

Is Santa so jolly because he knows where all the bad girls live?

Heard on the John Laws show. A bloke with a Scots accent rang to tell about two competitions run in a Glasgow newspaper. The first competition was to find a collective noun for a gathering of prostitutes.

Third place went to "A Jam of Tarts". Second place went to "A Fanfare of Strumpets". First prize was given to the entry that called them "An Anthology of Pro's"!

The second competition was to find the most eye catching headline for the front page, taking into account some of the notorious tabloids that lurk in the UK. The winner came up with the following wonderful headline: "Teenage Nun in Sex Change Mercy Dash to Palace"!

**Melbourne-Gippsland:** A hen-pecked husband was not allowed to do any-

thing or go anywhere without his wife. One day she saw him in the driveway getting into the car.

"Wait for me!" she screamed. "Don't you dare go without me."

She rushed out and buckled herself into the front passenger seat. Her long-suffering husband sighed, started the engine, and slowly drove into the garage.

**Moree:** Sure, you can't take it with you. But you can stash it away where no other bastard can find it.

My wife had a sex change....now it's Wednesdays and Saturdays instead of Tuesdays and Fridays.

A man staggers into a bar in Dublin and asks the only other patron there if he can buy him a drink. "Of course," comes the reply. The first man asks: "Where are you from then?" "I'm from Ireland," says the second man. "You don't say, I'm from Ireland too! Lets have a drink to Ireland then." "So where in Ireland are you from?" asks the first man. "Dublin," comes the reply. "I can't believe it – I'm from Dublin too. Let's have a drink to Dublin." "Make it a double," says the other. "What school did you go to?" questions the first man. "St. Mary's," says the other, "I graduated in 1964". "That's unbelievable!" says the first man. "I went to St. Mary's and I graduated in '64! Let's drink to St. Mary's." "Make it another double!" says the other. By this time they are both rolling drunk, slapping each other on the back and making a lot of noise laughing and reminiscing. A stranger walks in and asks what's going on. "Oh! nothing

much," says the barman, "just the O'Reilly twins getting drunk again!"

Adam to Eve: "Hey, I wear the plants in this family."

Eve, the first woman to say: "I haven't got anything to wear."

I told a dwarf a joke. It went right over his head!

"And another thing," shouts the doctor to his wife as they argue across the breakfast table, "you're not even good in bed." After storming out of the house to go to work, by mid-morning he's feeling very guilty and phones his wife to make amends. After the phone rings for some time she finally answers. "What took you so long to answer?" he asks. "I was in bed," she says. "What were you doing in bed at this time of the day?" "Getting a second opinion!"

A barrister arrives at the pearly gates. "Ah!" says St. Peter. "Mr Donoghue, we've been expecting you - welcome to Heaven." "But this isn't fair," says the barrister, "I'm only forty-five and far too young to die." "Hmmm, that's odd," says St. Peter, rubbing his chin. "According to the hours you've billed your clients, we've got you down as one hundred and twenty years old."

Do infants have as much fun in infancy as adults do in adultery?

If you look like your passport photo, you're too ill to travel.

If it costs taxpayers \$10,000 per metre, how come they call it a freeway?

Remember girls, there's no such thing as an ugly rich man.

**Sunraysia:** Five surgeons are discussing who makes the best and easiest patient to operate on.

The first surgeon says, "I like to see

accountants on my operating table, because when you open them up everything inside is numbered."

The second responds, "Yeah, but you should try electricians. Everything inside them is colour coded!"

The third surgeon says, "No, I really think librarians are best; everything inside them is catalogued in alphabetical order."

The fourth surgeon chimes in: "You know, I like construction workers. Those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over at the end and when the job takes longer than you said it would."

But the fifth surgeon wins the argument when he observes: "You are all wrong. Politicians are by far the easiest to operate on. They have no guts, no heart, no spine, and their head and arse are interchangeable!"

**Sunshine Coast:** Feeling there was safety in numbers, the three bikies taunted the semi-trailer driver when he entered the roadside cafe. The truckie ate his way silently through his meal. He took no notice as they made disparaging remarks about his features, his masculinity, and his ancestry (or lack of it). He didn't even react when one of the bikies emptied the contents of a salt shaker into his cup of tea; he just paid for his meal and left. "Boy, was that guy a lousy wimp!" commented one of the bikies. "He's a lousy driver, too," said the cafe manager as he looked out the window. "He's just backed over three motorbikes!"

The black man had just died and present-

ed himself to St. Peter at the 'pearly gates'. St. Peter, who was in a bad mood, said: "I'm not letting anyone in today unless they've done something really outstanding. Have you done anything of note?"

"Well, yes," said the new arrival, "I once made passionate love to a white woman at a Ku Klux Klan meeting."

"Great Scott!" cried St. Peter. "When did this happen?"

"About 45 seconds ago," said the black man.

**Wyong:** Maggie was dining out one night at a posh restaurant when an agitated waiter said: "I'm afraid something has happened to your husband madam; he's just slipped under the table."

"Oh, no he hasn't," groaned Maggie, "he's just coming in through the door!"

Ike and Ocker were arguing about which

was the strongest whisky and Ocker reckoned it was Scotch. "Rubbish!" said Ike, "Irish whisky is much stronger. One night my wife and I drank a bottle of Irish whisky and we went to seven o'clock mass the next morning."

"What's that got to do with the strength of Irish whisky?" demanded Ocker. "Plenty," said Ike, "we're Jewish!"

A dangerous criminal had escaped from jail and police headquarters sent a report to every police station in the state, showing three photos of the escapee; one left profile, one right profile, and one full-face.

A week later, headquarters received a response from the police station at Lizard Flats saying, "we've caught the fellow in the middle but we're still looking for the other two."

## NOTICE TO CLUB SECRETARIES

Please amend your dinner notice mailing list to include new National Secretary Ray Despot who will wish to keep abreast of happenings around the clubs, as well as sending a copy to the Roaring 40's Editor.

Your mailing list should include:

**Ray Despot**, National Secretary, Apex 40, P.O. Box 329, CLEVELAND. Qld. 4163

and **Alan Kinder**, Editor Roaring 40's, 34 Shafer Road, BLACKBURN NORTH, Vic. 3130

So far this year I have been receiving dinner notices from only 13 clubs when we supposedly have a total number of more than 60 Apex 40 clubs in existence. Admittedly, some of this number are not very active and perhaps don't run to dinner notices, but I note that we had some 19 clubs represented at the Bendigo Rort and

there must be many more who regularly put out dinner notices. It is not asking too much, surely, to run off two more copies and provide envelopes and stamps for them. Roaring 40's is the principal means of communication between clubs and to make it really effective we need your co-operation.

For those clubs which do not currently have the National Secretary and the Roaring 40's Editor on their mailing list, please update your list - NOW!

You've done that? OK, now don't forget that we would also like to have photographs of any special, or even not so special, events conducted at your club, or any other material that you feel would be of interest to your fellow Apex 40 members, for publication in Roaring 40's.

# 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  
30 September, 1999**

## **- FOR SALE - APEX 40 GEAR**

### THESE ITEMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

NAME BADGES – Cost: \$7.00

Available from –  
Alan Kinder (Nola)  
34 Shafer Road,  
Blackburn North, 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: (02) 6628 0881

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**

David Cameron,  
155 Shore Street North,  
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(07) 3286 1929

### **NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER**

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### **NATIONAL EXTENSION CHAIRMAN**

Garth Witchurch,  
1/18 Severn Street,  
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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.**