

ROARING 40'S

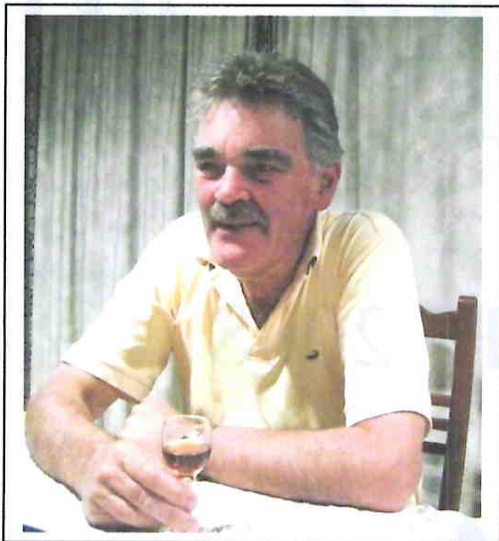
MARCH 2008



Apex 40 is the recognized body of
Affiliated Past Apexians Groups
www.apex40.org

NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT – Rob Beveridge, Devonport, Tas.

Welcome to 2008. I hope you all enjoyed the festive season with family and friends.



It was wonderful to have the UK 41's visit Australia. Kaye and I hosted Lawrence Amber and Ray & Eileen Piper from Oakhampton, whom we stayed with whilst on the 2005 tour of the UK.

Thank you to all clubs and members who hosted the 41's as I know from speaking with most of the UK visitors that they were certainly having a wonderful time and many lasting friendships have been made. Well done Kevin and Liz on a well organised tour. Hopefully Paul and Jean Ankcorn (who were on the tour) will be in Perth at the time of the Rort and are hoping to attend.

On speaking with Bev Foss recently she informs me that numbers are slowly rolling in for the Perth Rort. As I have previously attended a Rort in Perth I know that we can be assured of a great time. It is a long journey from the Eastern states to the West but our WA members regularly attend the Rorts so it would be great to see a large gathering attend. Kaye and I are looking forward to catching up with old friends and also meeting new ones.

Wishing everyone a Happy and Safe Easter and see you in Perth.

NATIONAL SECRETARY / TREASURER – Pamela Richardson

Happy new year to everyone. Not many weeks now until the Perth Rort. Barry and I are looking forward to renewing old friendships and making new ones, we hope.

It is now early February and most clubs and members at large have paid affiliation fees. I have had to write to some clubs requesting early payment. I am concerned that the members of non-affiliated clubs may

not be eligible to vote or accept office. Hopefully all clubs will be financial by the time you receive your copy of Roaring 40s.

If your members download Roaring 40s from the internet, would you please let me know and we can save some of the cost of printing and postage? I have been told several times lately of members who did not know each club is forwarded 3 copies. One copy is unstapled so that it may be photocopied for members. Most of you seem to have access to the internet.

See you in Perth!

International Relations and Apex Liaison – Sandy Harmer.

What wonderful fellowship we enjoyed with our visitors from the UK late last year. They were a very happy bunch, easy to entertain (and entertaining) and interested in everything Aussie. One couple are hoping to make it back to our Perth Rort in May so that will be fantastic.

Another UK Club 41 couple, David and Hazel Cliffe who were not on the tour, are due to land in Australia in the next week. Darrol and I will meet them in Sydney the last weekend in February and they are due in Melbourne from 5th to 8th March. If they contact your club, please show them our Aussie hospitality.

Ken Boden who was on the tour is the International Relations Officer for the UK so it was great comparing notes. He actually gets a budget for his travel to various conventions, etc. – I'll have to talk to our Executive!! Being a female IRO, I was a rarity (Darrol would agree with that!).

Brian Roach has passed onto me some details from a South African contact so I am trying to re-establish communication again. Hopefully some more details next edition.

There are at least 5 Kiwi couples coming to Perth so let's encourage as much international participation as we can. I look forward to seeing you all in May.

Upper Hutt - New Zealand.



Andrew and Jenni Farr, Liz Hammond, Mary Bach and Bill Hammond

Bill and Liz Hammond kindly made their home available for a New Year Get Together of Upper Hutt Club 41 Members to coincide with a visit by Alan and Mary Bach. Chef Bill used all the bells and whistles on his shiny, stainless steel brand new monster barb-be-que to prepare the meat. There were plenty of experts on hand to advise Bill on how to rotisserie his first chicken while cooking the steaks, sausages and rissoles.

In minutes the chicken erupted in a blazing inferno that made even Bill's twenty-one year old cat, Elliot, run for cover. Liz came to the rescue by turning it into a meal in her shiny new oven. Liz put her recently upgraded kitchen to the test preparing some gourmet dishes to compliment Bill's selection of very tasty New Zealand meats.

Six members from Upper Hutt Club attended the Mackay Rort along with four other Club 41 Kiwis. Another couple from Upper Hutt will be joining them and seeing us at the Perth Rort. Compliments and thanks to Bill and Liz for their warm hospitality.

AROUND the CLUBS

ALSTONVILLE –

The Meeting was well organized by Colleen and Barry Lancaster. Lunch at Evans Heas was very enjoyable and well attended in fact we took over the place, probably because we were so noisy. I think the most noisy section was the table that was closest to the River. It was nice to welcome along friends of the Lancaster's and also Bill and Noelle Spaine (Ex OASIS) who are residing in the mobile home park in Casino, they will be joining the Club. WELCOME aboard.

The Christmas party lunch was held at Mayley House which was a great success.

KELAB - KUALA LUMPUR – Suresh Siva

Members and their spouses rang in the New Year at a dinner and dance at the PJ Club.

SEREMBAN – T.T.Singam

Happy New Year to all our members and their families. How time flies! We are already into the second half of the Apex 40 Year....soon there'll be another round of elections. It is a pity we could not meet often enough since I took office. The end-of-the-year period is always filled with personal commitments...family, festivities, school holidays and such.

The activities planned too did not elicit much response. However, we did manage to have a service project in Malacca. We made a visit to the Handicapped and Mentally Disabled Children Centre there and donated food-stuff. My thanks to members who also contributed their time, effort and gifts to the inmates of the home.

The next dinner meeting is being hosted by the President and, as requested, he wants a good turnout. So much so he has to hold it at a restaurant to accommodate all the members!

Please don't disappoint him...he doesn't like disappointments...he turns green...like the Incredible Hulk! You wouldn't want that, would you?

WYNNUM / MANLY

Jyoti and Hansa Pandya from Bexley Club 41 in Kent were made welcome at the Wynnum Manly Christmas Break-up Dinner at Bruce and Geraldine Garland's Home. Jyoti and Pandya would have liked to have been part of the Club 41 Tour of Australia but were already committed to a visit to the Gold Coast.



Hansa and Jyoti Pandya Bexley Club 41 Kent.

Santa gave Bill Jessop a toy computer that was guaranteed to help him pick winning horses. Bill thought that was a great gift. He and Heather were last seen trying to turn the darn thing on.

John Watson was elected President and Denise Clements was elected Secretary

MOREE – Pam Swayn

The Apex 40 National Rort will be held in Perth WA, from 2nd to 5th May 2008 – as the words of the Apex 40 song say: “old friends to greet; new friends to meet- united in past membership of Apex”. You who have not attended a Rort have missed out on all those “warm fuzzies”. Perth will be looking forward to the arrival of the contingent from Moree.

SUNRAYZIA – President Elaine Gray

Christmas Party Lunch and the Annual general meeting was held at the Sunraysia Resort Bar & Bistro. The a la carte lunch menu was very reasonably priced. Distribution of gifts from Santa's Bag was also a big hit.

WYONG – Kea Dumpleton President

I hope everyone had a very good Christmas. Tom and I wish you all a HAPPY and HEALTHY 2008.

Our last Dinner with our UK visitors was a great success, and I would like to thank Daphne and Don once again for opening their home to

such a large group. Thanks also to those who Home Hosted and transported the Visitors to various functions.

Marian and Malcolm are settled into their new home, but will be off to Egypt and Dubai this month.

Peter and Ann have moved to Hallidays Point, but have assured us they will return for our Meetings, we would hate to loose them.

A Seafood night at Marie and Dennis' house will be held at the end of March.

LAUNCESTON

Reminder – Apex 40 Annual Golf Competition. The competition is to take the form of Four Aggregate Stroke Event, to be played between 1st November and 1st April yearly, over 18 holes played on the same day. Completed cards handed in by 1st April.

No matter what the statistics say, there's always a way.

GRAFTON – Peter Desborough

Meeting on Jacaranda Thursday was the usual informal gathering, starting with drinks at Grafton Hotel. Good to catch up with Cappy for some Jaca refreshments and a yarn. Unfortunately, Helen Templeton, being Queen Mother, was tied up with QM duties and couldn't join us for drinks. Congratulations to Sara Templeton on being Jacaranda Queen this year – well done! Also good to have Helen Tucker along and be updated on her and Robert's doings. Helen informs me that you sold the 10 ton truck and bought a 5 ton one, does this mean that you will be working half as much in retirement or twice as much, Robert? After refreshments we moved to Roche's for lunch, leaving Cappy propping the bar at the Grafton, just like old times – not really, older and wiser, eh Cappy. A very pleasant lunch, finishing off what seemed to be a quieter than normal Jaca Thursday morning.

MANLY INC. John Cameron, President

Our sincere thanks are extended to Ian and Robyn Dennewald for kindly making their home available to us for our Christmas Party. It was an excellent evening and thoroughly enjoyed by all. In keeping with tradition, our first meeting in 2008 will be the annual barbeque and

sailing night at The Spit. Maurie will have his yacht available for those who wish to tackle the high seas.

GEELONG

Members were addressed by the Guest Speaker Mr Jeff Oxley, who spoke on his early life in Geelong, his decision to pursue a professional career in Physiotherapy and his personal involvement in a range of sporting organizations associated with his work.

Jeff is the owner of the business Corio Bay Health Group and cooperates/manages nine sporting clinics in Geelong and the surrounding region.

Our entertainment for the Christmas mixed dinner will be provided by "Midnight Music" – our own Greg Melville Cert.Mus.Ed;Grad.Dip.Mus.Ed.-an accomplished musician who will entertain us with his very own style of music and comedy.

PERTH RORT – MAKE A DATE 2008 – Bev Foss

(2nd MAY TO 5th MAY 2008)

Everything is fully in place and numbers are looking good. The Post Rort Tour has been very popular, so much so that we have had to have a second coach. There are still a few spots available for the Rort so it would be wise to make contact with Bev on (08) 95812062 or Kathy Rowe on (08) 92793731 if you haven't booked and are now able to make it.

We have five couples coming from New Zealand and one couple from the UK attending the Rort and Post Rort Tour. Perth members are looking forward to everyone arriving and enjoying themselves.

ROUND TABLE 41 TOUR to AUSTRALIA – 2007

First club visit was Caloundra, after visiting Etamoogah Pub and Steve Irwin's Australia Zoo on the way. Hospitality by the club was to set the mood and the level for all club visits, which were absolutely fabulous throughout the entire tour. Quiet house parties on the first night, were followed by a coach tour to the Big Pineapple, Buderim Ginger Factory, Coolum, and return via the coast. A fabulous evening barbecue in the delightful Moffat Beach Park, topped off a splendid day. With a roll up of around 75 people – what a night!

All too quickly, it was off to Redland and Wynnum/Manly Clubs in Brisbane after some sightseeing throughout the day, along the route, and a wine tasting at Sirromet Winery.

A large contingent experienced cruising Moreton Bay with four of the experienced boatmen from Wynnum/Manly Club. Others were shown some of the coastal beauty spots stretching from Redland Bay to Redcliffe. Sampling the local and famous delights of the sea in perfect sunny weather and visiting Stradbroke Island made some reluctant to move



on.
Ian & Vlasta Ormiston from Bedfordshire felt like Royalty being shown around Ormiston House and the Ormiston Village. Pete and Sue Driver from South Yorkshire joined the Ormiston's on their tour of discovery.

Sue and Peter Driver, Mary Bach, Ian and Vlasta Ormiston
Visiting Ormiston House. (Dubbed Lord Ian & Lady Vlasta after the visit)

Bruce & Geraldine Garland along with Jim & Jill Goodwin organised a fabulous evening at the Moreton Bay Trailer Boat Club on the seashore at Manly with over 80 in attendance.

Peter Watts celebrated his Birthday and everyone in attendance signed his Steve Irwin Crikey Birthday Card and shared in his Birthday Cake.

It had to be explained to the visitors that Tasmania was part of Australia and not a separate country and that Canberra, as part of the ACT, was a Territory and not a State. Due to Daylight Saving in New South Wales, the Tourists were disappointed that on leaving Queensland they were short changed one hour and have to accommodate 24 hours of fun and fellowship and sleep into a 23 hour day. The tourists were asked to forgo 1 hours sleep and catch the bus an hour earlier.

The excursion down the Pacific Highway was filled with OOS & ARRS while passing through the Gold Coast on the way to Ballina.

Making the most of their last hour in Queensland it was smoko at Point Danger taking in the expansive views under the captain Cook memorial Lighthouse. A number of the Byron Bay Apex 40 members met the tourists for lunch at the Beach Front Hotel in Byron Bay. Some participants walked to the Cape Byron Lighthouse on the most easterly point. On their return, some experienced their first swim in the Pacific Ocean.

Onwards to Ballina, where the members of the hosting clubs, Alstonville, Lismore and Ballina Apex 40 Clubs were anxiously waiting to greet them. The Ballina Bowling Club for a smorgasbord seafood and Chinese which was excellent, then home to hosts homes. Sunday function was combined at the Summerland House With No Steps for a lovely lunch, fellowship, singing (as with most functions) and the class act with apologies to John Cleese, and the two Ronnies, which went down well wherever it was performed. After another round of house parties, it was off to bed and on the road again Monday morning.

Going west over the ranges of Tenterfield, we were tempted by another winery visit, before arriving in Inverell for a delightful lunch at the Pioneer Village hosted by members of the Inverell Apex 40 Club. The highlight here was a tour through the new tourist information office by Les Moulds, and one of the couples on the coach purchasing a sapphire engagement ring!

Moree Apex 40 Club was the next stopover with seven hosting families taking in 36 visitors – A mammoth effort! Fellowship with the locals began with a ‘Barbie’ around the pool on the arrival night.

The following day the coach tour visited a huge pecan nut farm, then a taste of Aboriginal arts and crafts, and next a dose of retail therapy. Women the world over cannot last for too long without a visit to the shops. A game of golf or a dip in the famous Moree artesian baths topped off the day. The evening function was a another magnificent evening at the “Cooינו Country Club”, the 100 year old historic home of Tony & Kay Jukes, where some 70 people were accommodated on the enclosed verandah for a camp oven dinner, and a night of

merriment, including the presentation of the first trophies, one of which was the “Whinging Pom Award”! An evening to remember!

From Moree via Gunnedah where koalas in the wild were found, then on to Pokolbin for two more wine tastings, before booking into our hotel accommodation at Tallawanta Lodge for a rest! The following morning was cancelled whilst the participants soaked up the luxury of their spa rooms, apart from the early risers who watched England suffer defeat by the Croats in the soccer.

After a walk around the beautiful Hunter Valley Gardens, lunch and yet another wine tasting, we arrived in Wyong to be met by our member hosts for the next two nights, where we were treated to the feeding of the pelicans prior to heading to our hosts homes. Another night of quiet dinners in homes, then it was off again next morning to Port Stephens for a dolphin viewing cruise and a scenic central coast tour. The evening took the place of the club Christmas function in the waterfront home of a member where a visit by Santa Claus was well received with gifts for all 75 – 80 present – another superb function!

From Wyong, it was the big city of Sydney where the group had three nights in a hotel at Darling Harbour, and an opportunity to really take in the sights, walk the bridge, sail, check out the 2000 Olympic site and the Blue Mountains, Bondi Beach, walk, or catch up with friends.

Next stop was Canberra, the national capital where a tour of the city and parliament house was on the agenda, as well as a visit to the war memorial, which was truly excellent. Leaving Canberra after a night there, it was through Cooma, Jindabyne to Thredbo, where a ride up the chairlift was on order, before making our way through Khancoban, Corryong and Tallangatta to our night hotel stop at Albury.

Into Victoria, Beechworth, another wine tasting, Ned Kelly’s town of Glenrowan and down the Hume Highway to South Melbourne to catch our overnight Spirit of Tasmania to Devonport, to be met by our hosts at 7.30am. The small state of Tasmania had been inadvertently left off the tour banners from the old country, so our English tour leader Paul drew one on, but a little out of proportion!



More fun in Devonport, touring the attractions of the area with a brilliant barbecue alongside the Mersey River that seemed to go on and on! All too quickly it was time to depart to move on to Launceston where the Apex 40 club had prepared a wonderful lunch for us in Cataract Gorge, an alcohol-free park! Bugger!

Hobart and Wrest Point Waters Edge for two nights were next on the itinerary visiting Salamanca and Port Arthur.

Robin Holliday in Strife at Cataract Gorge



Aboard the West Coast Wilderness ABT Railway – Strahan to Queenstown.

Some of Tasmania's oldest architecture in Historic Richmond was appreciated before travelling on to west coast towns of Queenstown and Strahan. A World Heritage Dinner Cruise on Macquarie Harbour and the Gordon River was enjoyed by the group.

The train trip from Strahan to Queenstown on the West Coast ABT



Showing How it's Done Turning the Train Around at Dubbil Barrill

Wilderness Railway rounded off Tassie, then coach back to Devonport to be farewelled once more by Devonport Club members as we boarded the ferry for the overnight sail back to Melbourne.

Taking in some of Melbourne's sights we met with our final hosts being members of Melbourne/Gippsland and Norwesters Apex 40 Clubs, with the two groups not meeting together until our farewell party night in a hotel in Melbourne, and all too soon the tour had come to an end!

Kevin Huxham sends a much appreciated Thank you to the club coordinators, hosting members of Apex 40 who readily accepted participants into their homes and made them feel extremely welcome. Clubs who met with the tour on the way and provided lunches, and anyone who assisted in the successful visit by the Round Table 41 Clubs of UK & Ireland. The accolades received from the participants were excellent and all had a wonderful time seeing a small portion of Australia during their 5,200kms trip on the coach!

The motto of the RT41 organisation is "May the hinges of friendship never rust", and we are absolutely sure that they won't, and certainly didn't on the tour – and what a great bunch of participants!

In Our Thoughts.

Vale Vi Mussell, wife of co-founder Lionel Mussell.

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of a lovely lady, Vi Mussell. Vi suffered a very serious stroke on Monday January 21st, and passed away peacefully in the afternoon of Friday, the 25th.

Alan Kinder spoke on behalf of Apex 40 at the Funeral Service. There were speakers from other organisations in which Vi and Lionel have been involved. Lionel gave an absolutely wonderful speech about their years together – 46 years of marriage. Everyone who knew Vi will feel the loss. Our sympathy is extended to Lionel and all the family.

Vale Sam McInnes

Melbourne-Gippsland Apex 40 lost one of their members, Sam McInnes, to cancer on Friday February 15th. Sam was a very popular member, whose wife Audrey passed away just three years ago. Sam will be greatly missed, as is Audrey.

Vale Bill Porter

The President of Bendigo Club, Bill Porter has passed away very suddenly. He will be sadly missed by Apex 40 and our sympathy goes out to his family.

Small World

To prove yet again how small the World is, Max Cheney, Melbourne Norwesters, was heading out for a coffee with a friend in the suburb of Greensborough in the Victorian Capital recently. On the way they happened upon well known Rorter, Bob Skinner, enjoying dinner with friends at a kerbside restaurant. Max often shares a room with Bob at Apex 40 Rorts but this year will be in Perth with his 'Dancing Partner'. Max it appears has been practicing some new moves.

Flooding in Mackay

Bill and Carol Moffat have weathered the recent flooding in Mackay. "Luckily we live on a hill," Carol was pleased to announce. The flood tested the town's emergency services. Bill, an engineer with the Mackay Council was on call to give his assistance and was impressed to

see the townsfolk rally together. The tropical mould was spreading so rapidly that Carol was beginning to worry they may arrive in Perth looking a little green.

Caravaning to Perth

Des and Denise Clements, left home heading to Perth in late January. They were the first from Wynnum Manly to set off to the Rort and will soon be followed by Bill and Heather Jessop.

Immediate Past President Bob and Mary McKernon have delayed leaving on their caravan trip to Perth while Mary recovers from a recent stint in hospital. Get Well Mary.

Ros and Peter Chessell from Grafton will also be heading to Perth by caravan. Peter is towing the van to South Australia as Ros has work commitments. Ros plans to fly to Adelaide to join Peter for the trip across the Nullabor Plain.

By the time all of the caravans end their pilgrimage to Perth they could resemble a modern day Wagon Train. Keep an eye out for them.

Wyang Rort 2009

Wyang Apex 40 Club has given plenty of notice in announcing the dates for next years Rort.

The Rort will commence with the Welcome Social Friday March 27th 2009 and finish with a Farewell Breakfast on Monday 30th March. The Post Rort Tour will be from Monday March 30th until Thursday April 3rd.

On a boat trip on the Swan River in Easter 1972 the Idea for an Organisation for Retired Apexians was discussed. Action from that idea by the likes of Lionel Mussell and others led to Apex 40's being conceived. It will be fitting to reflect on that part of history when Apex 40's members take the Swan River Cruise at the Perth Rort.

Thanks again to those who contributed news for this issue, especially to Kevin Huxham. Kevin and Liz also deserve many accolades for putting the UK Tour of Oz together. Please send us your News and Photos. The entrants in the Penultimate Award need to keep sending their Newsletters and Dinner Notices to the Roaring 40's to stay in contention.

Stop Press: Melbourne Norwesters has sent National Board some proposals to clarify the Apex 40 Constitution since National President Rob sent his Report.