

# ROARING 40's



Official publication for Apex 40 Clubs. Apex 40 is the recognised body of affiliated past Apexians groups.

[www.apex40.org](http://www.apex40.org)

July 2011



***The Rort is over and the reports are in —***

***This issue has three separate reports on what happened over there in the land of the Long White Cloud***



- ◆ **Three New Zealand Rort Reports**
- ◆ **Alan Bach's Presidents Report**
- ◆ **Around the Clubs**
- ◆ **2012 Bush & Beach Rort—Fraser Coast**
- ◆ **National Apex President's Speech**

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## *The Editors Word!*

It has been a number of years since Nepean Valley hosted a Rort and even then, we (Nepean Valley Apex 40 Club) sought about making registrations as easy as possible for the Rorters. The main currency for registrations was cheques, which relied heavily on the postage system, not only for the cheque to arrive but the included registration form. Then we had to encounter the 10 day or so, delay on the cheques clearing , which presented some challenges to the treasurer at the time. I even recalled somebody paid their registration via money order—that was different.

For the 2011 Rort, Brian and Pam Fulmer and their team in conjunction with Liz Haddon have put together a very slick online registration and payment system which still allows for cheque payment or you can directly put the funds into the Rort account via EFT using the BSB and account number that will be supplied via an email.

**So how does it work?** As I tried the system out just prior to writing this article, I can assure you that if you have internet access, your well on your way.

Step 1 - go to <http://www.apex40.org/2012rort>

Step 2 - fill in the names etc and your email address - There is no request for credit card details or money at this stage.

Step 3 - an email will arrive quoting your rego number (last 6 digits of your phone number) and details of how you can make the payment—Cheque, EFT or direct deposit into the Commonwealth Bank .

Step 4 - Pay the money and your finished

Step 5 - Don't forget you need somewhere to stay  
There are 3 places listed on the form.

Step 6 - See you there.

Ken and Janice Wright

## *ROARING 40's*



Forming enduring friendships is what we learned as Apexians and partners. Many of us have done exactly that and have continued the tradition into our Apex 40 years. As members , we all like to hear how everybody is getting on and what the other clubs are up to. The Roaring 40's will help spread that word in conjunction with the Apex 40 website. So please email or send your newsletters / Dinner Notices to me (Ken Wright) so I can include a report about your club in the next issue. And if you can email to me, why not drop a copy to our website editor Liz Haddon. All details are on the back cover. Who knows you may even win an award. Incidentally you can download a full colour copy of the Roaring 40's from the Apex 40 website or if you wish, I will email you a copy—just let me know where to send it. [kawright@optusnet.com.au](mailto:kawright@optusnet.com.au) .

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## **National President's Report**

### **Alan Bach**



It's all happening. I have been buoyed by the enthusiasm of those who made the pilgrimage to the Nelson Rort and also the effort that members are putting into organising the future Rorts. I have always admired the dedication that Col and Phyl Ramsay put into the organisations that they are involved with and thank Col for taking on the role of National Secretary/Treasurer. Thanks also to Bob and Wendy for their efforts during the last two years and Wendy has been wonderful in helping Col and I make the transition to our respective positions on National Board. Thanks also to Sandy Harmer for staying on in the position of IRO and Apex Liaison.

Last night (Saturday July 3<sup>rd</sup>) Mary and I attended the Apex National President's Handover Dinner at King's College, University of Queensland, in Brisbane and re-newed many old acquaintances. Brisbane Apex Club's Chris Morahan took over the reins from Jeff Hardie who hails from Sarina Club in central Queensland. Jeff and his team spent a busy year streamlining the Apex administration and working to make Apex an efficient organisation that appeals to today's youth. Chris also outlined his well thought out plans to continue the next phase. Redland's Apex members and Xepa Apex 40 members capably manned the bar for the night.

Two Life memberships, Richard Colwell (Beenleigh & Redlands) and Chris Morahan (Warwick & Brisbane) were presented to two gobsmacked recipients. It was a good opportunity for us to seek out and harass the retired and retiring about Apex 40.

The Kiwis showed us a great time at the Nelson Rort. Congratulations to Bill MacDonald, Alan Nimmo, Peter Butchart and the rest of the Nelson Team for a very well run event. From all reports the South Island Tour was also a huge success and many thanks must go to Derek and Tina Johns for a massive effort in organising that for us.

The next big event for many Apex and Apex 40 members is the Gympie Muster planned for the last week of August in the Amamoor State Forest. It appears that a special time is planned as the Muster celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> year.

Registrations are now rolling in for the Fraser Coast Rort and it appears that we will have quite a few 'Rort Virgins' next year. Many of those registering for the Rort are taking advantage of using the Apex 40 website to book online. Brian Fulmer (Maryborough) gave a presentation, in Nelson, on the Fraser Coast Rort and he was backed up with representation from his wife Pam and also Ivan and Heather Voss from Hervey Bay club. At the NZ 41 Club AGM a resolution was passed that their 2012 Convention be held in conjunction with the Fraser Coast Rort. The 41 Club members who cross the ditch should be prepared to receive a resounding welcome from Apex 40.

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Many members have shown a great interest in the 2013 Rort, a South Pacific Cruise leaving from Brisbane. The Rort is being organised jointly by Wynnum Manly and Xepa Great Southeast Clubs. As some 41 Club Members have shown interest in the cruise as well, it has been planned for the second week in June so as not to clash with the Kiwi Convention.



## 2011 Award Winners



**The Penultimate Award** for the best Dinner Notice was won by Bill & Val Cramp from Redlands who have continued their good work and won the award for the second year running. The award was received on their behalf by Eddie Richards.

**The Bull Horn Award** was won by Bendigo Club for their rousing rendition of 'The Drunken Sailor'. Bob Caldwell, Kevin Harvey, and Peter Dumont looked resplendent in their evening gowns allegedly the daughters of one roped in Bob Ireland alias 'Captain Matchbox'. Anne Caldwell, Shirley Harvey and Elaine Dumont were naturals as 'Drunken Sailors'.

Chook Rossiter and the Chicken Band (Paul Ankcorn and Kevin Huxham) put on a great act and ran a close second. They were not deterred when Chook's old Commodore 64 computer blew up at the start of the show and Kevin had to sing instead of mime and the others had to scratch and peck in tune.

**The Bill Cunliffe Attendance Award** was won by Redlands who were naturally well represented in Nelson. This is the third time Redland Club have won the Award.

**The Boomerang Award** was presented to Brian Fulmer from Maryborough as the Chairman of the 2012 Fraser Coast Rort. The Rort will be hosted in the Hervey Bay and Brian was supported by Ivan Voss from Hervey Bay Apex 40. Our New Zealand friends remarked that we Aussies spoke funny as Hervey should not be pronounced as Harvey.

**The Wizzie Award** was won by Bob Caldwell from Bendigo. It seems the security cameras at the Tahuna Beach Reception Centre went into overload when Bob was trying to function at the men's urinal in an evening gown.

**The Other Wizzie (Eddy Nunn's working Outhouse Miniature)** was awarded to John Bowman from Wyong. On the way back from Mapua, John asked the bus driver several times "How much longer? How much longer?" and he visibly cringed at every bump, every bend and every red light. On arrival, back at Tahuna, John exited at Olympic Speed and the groan of relief could be heard over a wide area.



## **International Relations & Apex Liaison Report** Sandy Harmer - Wyong

What a great Rort we had in Nelson, New Zealand, with the Kiwis, Aussies, one Pom (Paul Ankcorn) and three Frenchmen from New Caledonia – a great mix and a fun group of people. The Kiwis outdid themselves in their hospitality and we look forward to seeing them all in Hervey Bay next year.

Derek and Tina Johns were wonderful hosts on our bus tour and bent over backwards to keep us informed and entertained. Derek even threw himself off a perfectly good bridge to amuse and scintillate us but luckily, he had this BIG rubber band attached to his legs!! He is the IRO for NZ but I certainly don't want that in my job specs!

Darrol and I had a camping weekend with Caloundra Apex 40 Club in the Mary Valley recently and enjoyed talking to Denis Smyth, their club president. He told us about an Apex work party he was involved with that went to Goroka PNG in 1986 for 3 weeks to build a Women's Resource Centre for homeless women. 26 Apex members from many Qld clubs volunteered and had to take their own tools. Denis' group stayed at the local Institute of Sport where they had armed guards to protect them – it helped that the Police Chief was an Apexian. At the official Opening Ceremony, they were the star attraction and were entertained with singing, dancing and the Mud Men.

Thank you so much, Denis, for this information and I am very interested in hearing from anyone who has other stories about work projects from their Apex days. It would be wonderful to feature a story in each issue. Email address is [www.darrolh.sandy@bigpond.com](mailto:www.darrolh.sandy@bigpond.com)

Sandy Harmer

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# Apex Australia National President Inaugural Speech



*Dignitaries, Apexians & Friends.*

It has been a long road to this point in my life, standing before you as your new National President. They say you are a product of your genetics and your environment., now don't know much about my genetics, as I was adopted, however, I can tell you that I had a hell of environment to grow up in. As an only child, I was obviously spoilt, and consider myself extremely lucky to have an extremely supportive family, as can be seen by their presence here tonight. I also want to acknowledge my Apex Family, from my early days Warwick, through numerous boards, and to my current club here in Brisbane. I have made many great friends, and been lucky to learn from and be mentored by many great leaders.

Now it was nearly two years ago, that I decided to run for National Vice and subsequently National President, a decision that has lead me here tonight. I did it because I love this Association and I believe deeply in our ideals. I also believe that if we can make the right changes, the best days for Apex can lie ahead of us and not behind.

I believe the service Apex needs from me right now is to face up to our really big challenges, to confront our problems, to take difficult decisions and to lead people through those difficult decisions so that together we can reach better times ahead.

One of the goals we clearly need is to rebuild the trust and unity in the association. Yes, that's about sorting out expenses, yes, that's about cleaning up our structure and yes, it's about making sure that clubs and members are in control and that the various boards are their servants, never their masters. But I believe it's also about something else, about being honest about what National Board can achieve. Real change is not what the board can do on its own. Real change is when everyone, comes together and works together, when we all exercise our responsibilities to ourselves, our club and our communities. This is the real change that the Association needs and one I would like to help us all make.

Now I have no delusions that this will be easy, or that things can be turned around in a twelve month period. My hope for this year, as it is with all who put this chain of office around their neck, is to make some contribution to the betterment of the Association. The changes we are working towards are strategic in nature and some of the most significant in more than twenty years.

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As I have travelled around the Association, it is apparent that there is some significant dissatisfaction out there. This can be for a number of reasons, many site financial pressures, lack of communication or the difficulties associated with attracting and retaining membership. There are however, in this environment, many successful clubs, with strong membership, healthy finances and good community support and involvement, I see the members of some of those clubs here tonight. Talk to these members and you will soon see that the key to a successful club is really a pretty simple formula; the members enjoy being a part of the club. The real challenge therefore is how can we, as a National Board improve the levels of satisfaction around the Association.

### **Cost of membership**

A recurring theme that has been resonating now for quite a number of years is that the fees are too high, and “we only seem to be working to pay the fees”. There are a number of reasons for this and despite popular opinion, the various National Boards have been listening, and have made some significant inroads on costs over the years. Major achievements in this area have been:

- strong and ongoing negotiation on the insurance premiums
- rebuilding the relationship with the foundation allowing the sharing and rationalising costs between the two arms of Apex
- the major restricting and relocation of the National Office
- the reorganisation of the National convention/AGM
- and looking Closer at national competitions, their costs and benefits

Unfortunately, membership has declined faster than the rate of savings, so even though the National Budget is less than half what it was only eight years ago, the membership is only slightly more than half of what it was then. So clearly this cannot be our primary strategy. We need to follow the lead of successful businesses; Steve Jobs (CEO of Apple) once commented that “The cure for Apple is not cost-cutting. The cure for Apple is to innovate its way out of the current predicament.” Businesses whose only strategy is to cut costs are doomed to failure, and Apex is no different.

### **Strategies**

The strategy I have been promoting and am following is to try to make Apex operate more efficiently and effectively. There are a number of ways we have been working on to achieve this. The restructure is the most obvious and significant component of this, it is not however the only thing being done. There are a number of initiatives that we are working on, including:

A new training package started this year, which we hope to deliver in in early 2012,

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designed to provide consistent, easy to understand training direct to the members either at their club, or on-line. More effective use of electronic communication, rather than transporting members around the countryside.

Strategic partnerships with complementary organisations such as the Duke of Edinburgh Awards announced earlier by Jeff, we are also working on partnerships with Cadets, Rovers and Lions. Further partnerships with groups such as the Butterfly Foundation, Carrick Education and the Lighthouse Institute are being developed to ensure the ongoing viability of projects such as the Apex Australia Teenage Fashion Awards, which we have seen showcased here tonight.

One of the most common questions I get asked is “what am I going to do about membership”. Now as I said earlier we need to be honest about what National Boards can really do, so I am not going to stand here and tell you that by this time next year we will have solved the membership problems. Instead, the strategies we are putting in place, like the lowering of costs, improving club support and improving training are all designed to provide a greater level of satisfaction across the Association and to improve the mood of the membership. If members are happy in their clubs they are more likely both to stay in the club and to ask other people along.

In addition to this, Jeff has this year produced a new simple community service announcement for TV broadcast, which is currently being distributed to networks. The intent being to assist in raising our profile. To complement this, Rick has also produced new radio commercials for clubs to take along to their local community radio stations. We are also working hard on getting the website right, and making it as dynamic as we can.

The third component of the membership strategy is the partnerships mentioned earlier. It is the intent that by building partnerships with Youth organisations such as Duke of Ed, Cadets and Rovers, that we can raise our profile, do more in the realm of developing citizenship and provide an avenue for these young, community minded people to continue service to the community.

### **Conclusion**

There is change afoot and it is, as marketing people like to put it, a game changer. This board will be pursuing positive action based on sound strategies. As I said earlier, I am here because I love this Association. I also believe that if we can make the right changes, the best days for Apex can lie ahead of us and not behind. My theme for this year is to “Make the Future”. The Association is in our hands and it is our responsibility to provide the leadership it needs to make the necessary changes. I invite you to be a part of these changes and thank you for trusting me to guide you through.

Chris Morahan  
Apex Australia  
National President 2011-2012





*Apex National President  
Chris Morahan  
with Alan Bach  
at the Apex Handover Dinner  
at St. Lucia Qld*

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## **The APEX Club of Blacktown**

Invites you to help celebrate its 50 year anniversary 1961-2011

**Sunday 14th August 2011 12.30pm start**

The Ballroom Blacktown Workers Club

Campbell Street Blacktown

All proceeds from the night will go to the APEX

Children's Chalet

Cost: \$45.00 per head or \$400.00 for table of 10.

Includes three course meal and entertainment. Drinks  
club prices.

The afternoon will include some fantastic raffles with great prizes.

Contact Jamie Vincent on 0410587569 or [Jamie@jamievincent.com](mailto:Jamie@jamievincent.com)

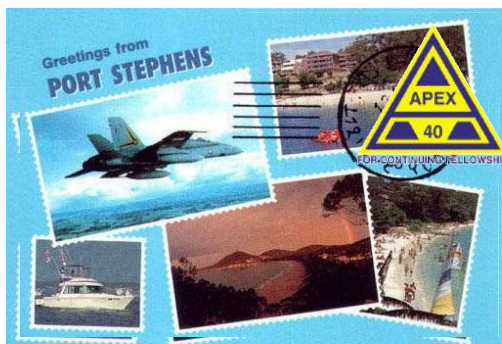


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## **WYONG APEX 40 CLUB**

**24th to 28th October**





## **FRASER COAST BUSH 'N BEACH RORT UPDATE**

At the recent AGM in Nelson it was announced that the new Online Registration system for the 2012 Rort was up & functioning on the Apex 40 Website.

As a special incentive to use the new online system, the first 100 members to register online, pay their deposit by 30 November 2011 & the balance before 31 March 2012 will go into a draw at the Rort dinner on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> May 2012 to win \$320.00.

The web address is <http://www.apex40.org/2012rort> . On this page of the website there is a downloadable version of the Rort brochure together with an index accessing pages for:

### **ONLINE REGISTRATION**

This is a first for Apex 40, with member receiving a return acknowledgement of their online registration for the Rort. Its fast & its easy to use.

### **REGISTRATION FORM**

This provides members with a downloadable version of the Registration form for manual use, should they choose to do so.

### **POST RORT TOUR**

This provides members with an overview of the itinerary & inclusions for the "Wide Bay Wonders" Post Rort Tour.

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## **ACCOMMODATION**

This provides a list of accommodation options together with contact details & “hotkeys” to access the websites of the preferred accommodation venues from which “pick up/drop off” bus services will operate for Rort activities.

## **PAYMENT METHODS**

Also announced at the 2012 AGM was the introduction of three distinct methods of payment for Rort & Post Rort registration fees. Members are now able to pay by EFT, direct deposit or by cheque. Details are provided at the bottom of the 2012 Rort brochure on the website – together with “hotkeys” to the accommodation venues.

## **INTERNATIONAL FLAVOUR**

Next year’s Rort is expected to be a truly international event with Round Tables 41 in New Zealand transferring their AGM & annual get together to coincide with our Rort. We are also expecting members from RT41 New Caledonia & invitations have also been extended to our Malaysian Apex 40 members.

## **INCENTIVE TO REGISTER EARLY**

As a special promotional incentive to use the new online system, we are offering the first 100 Online Registrants, who register & pay the minimum deposit of \$100.00 pp by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011 & the full balance by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012, the opportunity to go in to a draw for the refund of one Rort Registration fee (\$320.00). This will be drawn at the Rort dinner on Sunday, 27<sup>th</sup> May, 2012.

## **NOT ON THE INTERNET OR REQUIRE MORE DETAILS**

Contact Brian Fulmer

Fraser Coast Rort Committee

P: 07 4123 5308

M: 0409 764 252

E: [bpfulmer@bigpond.net.au](mailto:bpfulmer@bigpond.net.au)

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# **NZ RORT REPORT - No: 1**

## **The Pre RORT**

*by Kevin Huxham*

### **ROUND TABLE 41 Conference / APEX 40 RORT in Nelson, NZ**



Participants in the coach tour of the South Island, in conjunction with our Rort, arrived from various locations in Christchurch, the majority on Wednesday June 1. A number had arrived earlier and did short self-drive tours. We were met by our coach captain Merv (also a 41-er) as well as our tour leaders, Derek and Tina Johns. Derek is the RT41 IRO and tour organiser.

We were taken on a tour of what was accessible of the city of Christchurch, much of which is barricaded off, following the devastating earthquakes of September, 2010 and February 22 this year, touring firstly by coach, then by a walking tour.

Although the 20 second quake lasted only a short time, it caused massive devastation and destruction. We were advised that 56,000 workers could not return to their place of employment because of the damage done to the buildings they worked in. Many blocks of the main city will have to be completely demolished and rebuilt, a task reported to take 10 years and cost 30 billion dollars.

After settling into respective rooms at the Heartland Cotswold, dinner at our hotel was an excellent meal, and the fellowship generated by the group and 15 members of the Christchurch 41 club who joined us, along with our coach captain and tour leaders, was wonderful.

The next morning at 8.55am, we headed northwards, a happy coach load of 45 Apex 40 members, Paul Ankcorn of Okehampton 41 Club in Devon, our coach captain and tour leaders. Our morning tea break was at Cheviot, then we moved onwards to Kaikoura for our lunch stop.

The comfortable coach stopped at Ohua Stream Park where we did a 10 minute walk to view approximately 50 young seals frolicking in a pond at the base of a waterfall -- quite a unique experience. A good number of larger seals were seen sunning themselves on the coastal rocks, but the younger ones found their way some 400 metres inland to play, whilst their parents went searching and catching their dinner.

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Moving onwards, we were treated to a tour and wine tasting of an impressive development known as Yealands Winery, which started production in 2008 and is an outstanding environmentally-friendly plant, a great model to removing the carbon footprint from the planet.

Our evening destination was Heartlands Blenheim, so with happy hour already commenced at the winery, we moved on to a local pub which contained the Vines Restaurant with great tucker and desserts, more company from Blenheim RT41 members, Brian Roach from Victoria, and lots of joke telling.

An enjoyable breakfast in the hotel, and by 9am, "on the road again" could be heard emanating from the members. as we wound our way to the Omaka Heritage Centre, a vintage aircraft museum, with an absolutely fabulous collection of early planes, mapping aviation history through the great wars, and with many incredible life-sized scenes, including the demise of the Red Baron.

Since leaving Christchurch, the predominant crops appears to be vineyards, sheep, cattle then olives, but the grapes are by far the most popular. Whilst we did try to boost NZ's grape growing industry, one wonders where all this wine goes to.

Time to cross over the range towards Nelson, but before doing so, we visited Havelock, the mussel capital on NZ, where we spent 1 1/2 hours with lunch and walking the town. This led us to the final leg of the trip to the Rort and our home for the weekend, the Tahuna Beach Holiday Camp where we registered and moved into our two bedroom cabins for the weekend.

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### On a lighter note -

**Kevin Huxham should have received an award at the recent Rort as he did such an excellent job as Sergeant at Arms. A number of Fines Sessions were sprung at a moments notice during the weekend and Kevin was always well prepared. He and the two Kiwi Sheriffs kept the Rort/Convention well entertained.**

**Alan Bach**



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## **NZ RORT REPORT - No: 2**

### **The RORT**

*by Alan Bach*

#### ***ROUND TABLE 41 Conference / APEX 40 RORT in Nelson, NZ***

Members began registering at the Tahuna Beach Resort Convention Centre at Tahunanui from 2.00pm on Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup>. All of the accommodation was very close and all meals and functions were held in the centre. The 41 Club members gave the Apex 40 members a hearty welcome and this set the stage for a great weekend. There were plenty of early starters for the Nelson Markets. Even though the morning was cold and wet many managed to keep warm with a cup of hot chocolate while others preferred a dram or two of some of the local brews.

During a rowdy lunch Marcie Irvin and Chook Rossiter won a scenic helicopter trip over the Marlborough Sounds (along with Derek, John and Peter from NZ). The weather closed in again and the flight was postponed for 24 hours. After lunch the tourists dived up and visited the Eyebright Experience, a large country store with many attractions and the little coastal village of Mapua in the heart of Tasman Bay. Local 41 Club Member, Arthur Hawke, has created a 20 hands high horse named Laura from horseshoes that takes pride of place in the foyer of the Nelson Airport. A smaller horse, also created by Arthur is on display in the craft shops created from the old cold stores in Mapua. Even though Mapua is renowned for the most hours of sunshine in New Zealand it managed to precipitate for the entirety of our visit.

Happy Hour began at the Function Centre at 6.00pm, followed by dinner at 7.00pm. Nelson had sought the services of Paul Fletcher, a one man band from Waipu on the North Island to entertain us. Paul was our resident entertainer for the whole weekend and did a splendid job – He did not shut down the show until everyone had gone to bed – usually around 1.30am. The caterers were also very kind to us, keeping the venue open as late as we wanted and fronting up again at sparrow in the morning – Alan Nimmo, the outgoing 41 Club President commented on Monday morning “How come the ones who are last to leave the night function are the first ones back in the morning?”

There was plenty of dancing and entertainment after presentations on the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations of Club 41 Noumea and the 2012, Apex 40 Curtis Coast Rort. The Apex 40 AGM was the first cab off the rank at 9.00am on Sunday morning. A minutes silence was taken for those who have left us since the last Rort, most of the trophies were awarded, the Fraser Coast Rort got the final Go-Ahead for 2012, The South Pacific Cruise was the favourite choice for the 2013 Rort and the new National Board took control – all before 9.45am. Most of the Apex 40 members sat in on the 41 Club AGM which was held straight after the Apex 40 meeting.

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Lunch was again in the function centre and after lunch the sun shone briefly to allow the helicopter flight to take place. Some went to see the WOW display while others stayed back, practiced their skits and partook in some rest and fellowship.

Happy Hour was at the early time of 5.15pm in the function centre with members dressed in their finest nautical cloth. There was plenty of time for fellowship before sitting down to dinner at 6.30pm.

Apex 40 retaliated to New Zealand performing their Haka with their version of the Aussie Haka. The visitors from Noumea also performed the French version of the Haka.

Bendigo won the coveted Apex 40 Bullhorn Award with their Drunken Sailor rendition and Blenheim won the 41 Club Award with their Yellow Polka Dot Bikini Skit.

Around 12.30am Paul roused the stayers into forming a circle and singing Auld Lang Syne. This led to the singing of a number of Aussie ballads, then a number of Kiwi folk songs and the night was rounded out with some Scottish songs accompanied by some fine bag pipe playing until 1.30am.

The Farewell Breakfast on Monday was underway by 8.00am. As well as a final Fines Session, thank you speeches were given from both sides of the Tasman and many agreed to meet again on the Fraser Coast in 2012.

The NZ tour recommenced at 11.00am and departed for Greymouth on the west coast. The remainder either made their way home or departed for their next port of call.

Congratulations to Nelson Convention Committee chairman Bill MacDonald kept the programme rolling throughout the weekend. Bill was ably assisted by Alan Nimmo and Peter Butchart to name a few. Thanks again to everyone involved in making the event a great success and it is certain that from this combined Rort and Convention, there will be even closer links between our organisations



*Bill Cunliffe award being presented to Juri Denisenko, President of Redland Apex 40. Redland Club won the award for attendance at the recent Nelson Rort*

## **NZ RORT REPORT - No: 3**

### **The Post RORT**

*by Roz and Peter Chessell*

#### **ROUND TABLE 41 Conference / APEX 40 RORT in Nelson, NZ**

##### **Monday 6<sup>th</sup> June – Nelson to Greymouth**

We left all our new & old friends in Nelson in overcast weather & travelled south to Murchison & on past West Port, along the Buller River to Punakaiki & the unusual Pancake rocks & blow hole where the sun actually came out for a moment.



Pancake Rocks



Urinals at Monteith Brewery

Greymouth was our stop for the night with our surprise accommodation. It was a double row of rooms, each with numerous beds, & 3 unisex toilets & showers at the end of the row.

Most of us went on an interesting tour of the local Monteith's Brewery & then joined the drinkers back at the pub for tea. A number of us then met in a room & had a laugh drinking from anything that would hold liquid as the accommodation had plenty of beds to sit on but not the luxury of a glass.

##### **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> June – Greymouth to Franz Joseph**

We all invaded the local MacDonalds for breakfast, a new experience for some. Some fortunes were almost made, ran out of time, panning for gold at historical Shanty Town & we had many laughs with the artefacts at The Bushmen's possum hat making place after our visit to the Jade factory at Hokitika. Our accommodation that night in Franz Joseph was superb. We were greeted with warm towels & hot chocolate.

##### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June – Franz Joseph**

Franz Joseph is a lovely village that appears to survive on the tourist trade. Luckily the weather cleared & we were able to take our helicopter or plane flights



over Mt Cook & the Glaciers. Certainly a trip to remember with the sun shining on the huge snow capped mountains & glaciers. There was plenty to occupy us here. - Kiwis (bird variety), hot pools, interesting Bailey bridge being raised because of the build up of gravel from the glacier & a very friendly pub.



Walking to Fox Glacier

### **Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June – Franz Joseph to Wanaka**

Our trip to Wanaka took us on a cool walk to the Fox Glacier & lunch at South Westland Salmon farm. From here to the Thunder Creek 28m high waterfall & then on through the 562m Haast Pass with the most beautiful snow capped mountain scenery through to the serene Lake Wanaka.

### **Friday 10<sup>th</sup> June – Wanaka to Queenstown**

A visit to Puzzle world amazed & amused some of us with others going back in history at the National Transport & Toy Museum where there was one mans incredible collection of anything you could think of.

We passed the 45<sup>th</sup> parallel at Lake Dunstan near the fairly new town of Cromwell which was built at the same time as the Cromwell dam.

Our Tour Leader Derek was conned into doing the Bungy jump from the old bridge over the Kawarau River. He was sooo brave. There are plenty of photos to prove he did it!

We had a late lunch at Arrowtown after all the excitement of the Bungy jump. This is a very quaint back-in-time town where one could waste a lot of time. The bakery pies were delicious. Queenstown looked a bit dismal in the rain but still picturesque with the backdrop of the snow capped Remarkable Mountains & Coronet Mountain that is the popular ski area surrounding Lake Wakatipu. The Ski season was to start in two weeks time but so far not a lot of snow had fallen unfortunately as this is another of the many places that depend on the Tourist dollar.



Derek making a Bungy decision

### **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June – Queenstown to Te Anau**

The ride up the Gondola the next morning took us to an amazing view of Lake Wakatipu & surrounding town & mountains. We watched skydivers take off while the sun tried to come out. We all left from the Pig & Whistle Pub after lunch for Te Anau passing a number of Deer farms, tussock snowgrass & rolling hills on the way. Our meal at the Moose Hotel which over looks Lake Te Anau was very entertaining.

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## Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> June – Te Anau to Milford Sound

Even without the sun, travelling through the rain & mist to Milford Sound was interesting. There were very high rugged mountains, weather worn rocks at the Chasm & reflections of the mountains at Mirror Lake. The Milford Sound Cruise was still worth going on as the waterfalls were fantastic & you could still see the wonderful high mountains ending at the waterline. Another noisy meal at the ‘Moose’ ended a lovely day even though it was then that we found out the volcanic ash was affecting plane travel from New Zealand.



Pasta night with Gore 41 members

## Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June – Te Anau to Dunedin

We left Te Anau with the sunshine at last. The Riversdale Aviation Heritage Museum was interesting as you could see how the planes were made from plywood & cloth. You could even hire some for a flight. We met some local 41 Club members for lunch at Gore near the Hokonui ‘moonshine’ mountains.

Dunedin was via the Presidential highway from Gore to Clinton. We passed green fields of sheep & cattle being strip fed and when in Dunedin the impressive Railway Station & the Worlds Steepest Street, Baldwin Street. It was while here that we heard the news of a 5.5 & then a 6.0 earthquake in Christchurch. This was certainly a talking point with some local 41 Club members who joined us for a meal at a pizza pasta restaurant that evening. We had not felt anything.

## Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June –Dunedin to Timaru

We took a very scenic route around Dunedin Harbour with the new Rugby Stadium in the distance & ended our stay here with coffee in the Octangle with the statue of Robbie Burns with his back to us while we walked through the Cathedral. In Oamaru with some of the local 41 Club members we enjoyed a Ploughman’s lunch in an old grain warehouse in the dock area where there are a number of very fine buildings made from blocks of the white Oamaru rock. This is another interesting area to stroll around.

The evening meal in Timaru was spent with some very entertaining members of the Timaru 41Club. We raised \$300 in fines for the 41 Club earthquake appeal. This was our last night together as a group.



### **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> June – Timaru to Christchurch**

We left earlier than planned for Christchurch in the hope cancelled flights could be rearranged. In the end only 6 of the 22 members due to leave that afternoon were able to leave on their flights to Australia. The hotel was able to accommodate the extras that night.

While walking to the Apex 40 members at Timaru shopping centre Shirley Harvey fell on the footpath & required Ambulance assistance. Thankfully she was home soon after with bad abrasions & bruising but still smiling. The liquefaction & footpath damage was quite noticeable. The damage to homes, churches & businesses was terrible to see. Not a nice situation to be living in at the moment.

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June – Christchurch to ??**

This was a frustrating day spent rearranging flights & accommodation. Many were given Saturday flights but lucky for some they flew out that day at the last minute. Others spent the next few days enjoying travel around the Christchurch area.

Our Tour leader Derek had an incredible knowledge of the areas we visited. History, agriculture, work situations were all questions he answered. If he did not know the answer Tina or our bus driver Merv did. If only we could remember all we had learnt on our fantastic tour of the South Island of New Zealand.

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**ALSTONVILLE APEX 40**— *Approx 740km North of Sydney*

**BYRON BAY OASIS** —*Approx 760km North of Sydney*

**CREST CLUB OF THE BLUE MTNS/APEX 40**— *100km west of Sydney*

**FORBES**—*Approx 380 km West of Sydney*

**GREAT 8 HUNTER VALLEY**— *Approx 170km North of Sydney*

April was a great meeting for the Great 8, they enjoyed pizza, wine and merriment at the River Royal Hotel in Morpeth. Then in May they tested their skills against the evil 10 pins at Rutherford Ten pin bowling alley whilst in June they sat back and watched movies at Stockrington

On July 1st, Great 8 Hunter Valley celebrated their 20th Anniversary as a “Christmas in July” at the Family Hotel. During the night they arranged for Santa to drop in and hand out some presents including another year as President for Robyn, Marie Kingham as Secretary Treasurer and Leon Squires as the DN editor.

President Robyn also mentioned in her report about the ‘Look who’s talking’ nights with Maitland Library have become popular. The 1955 Maitland Flood talk by historian Peter Bogan was quite interesting and a project to gather peoples stories about the Floods was launched. If anyone has personal stories do contact Brough House. There will be another night at the Maitland Goal in June discussing ‘Break Outs’. We are planning to go to that one too, Robyn stated.

**GRAFTON**—*Approx 620 km North of Sydney*

**INVERELL**—*Approx 560 km North West of Sydney*

**LAVINGTON**—*Approx 560 km South of Sydney*

**LEETON**—*Approx 590 km South West of Sydney*

**LISMORE**—*Approx 740 km North of Sydney*

**MANLY**—*Approx 15km North East of Sydney*

**MOREE**—*Approx 640km North west of Sydney*

**MULLUMBIMBY/BRUNSWICK HEADS**—*Approx 790 km North of Sydney*

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**NEPEAN VALLEY— Approx 60km west of Sydney**

(My Club) - During May, we decided on trying out the Stonegrill Restaurant in Penrith. For those who are unaware of this type of restaurant, each person is delivered a very hot stone and the raw meat of their choosing. Cooking is done by slicing thin slices of meat and veggies and placing them on the stone whilst engaging in conversation and generally having a good time. Our June meeting was a combined board meeting and a Pot Luck lunch at President Bryan and Yvonne's house.

**WYONG — Approx 100km north of Sydney**

During April, Wyong had dinner at the Red Centre Steakhouse whilst reflecting some memories of Malcom Clark, at the Fawltly Towers function during the Wyong Rort. At the June dinner the club was entertained by news from the Rort in NZ. The club also participated as caterers in Dramafest whereby they made \$660 for Camp Breakaway. On July 28th they will celebrate a Special Xmas in July and members are expected to bring a small gift to exchange or recycle .

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**ALBANY CREEK—Approx 20km North of Brisbane**

**CALOUNDRA—Approx 103km North of Brisbane**

Sandy and Darrol Harmer recently spent time with the Caloundra mob. It appears that whilst the rest of the Apex 40 clubs were celebrating Christmas in July, Sandy was ensuring that the deer (Imbil Deer Park) got off to a good start by consuming several bottles of wine. Here is a picture of Sandy waiting for the deer to return.



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**CURTIS COAST**—*Approx 530km North of Brisbane*

**GOLD COAST** —*Approx 75km South of Brisbane*

**GYMPIE** —*Approx 180km North of Brisbane*

**HERVEY BAY**—*Approx 290km North of Brisbane*

**MARYBOROUGH** —*Approx 260km North of Brisbane*

**REDLANDS** — *Approx 40km south of Brisbane*

In June, Redlands decided to venture into a Hogs Breath Café. They are also planning a trip to Fraser Island and Rainbow Beach in August.



President Juri thanking Charlie and Marcie for the use of their home  
at a recent meeting

**SUNSHINE COAST** —*Approx 100km North of Brisbane*

**WYNNUM—MANLY** *Approx 20km east of Brisbane*

**XEPA GREAT SOUTH EAST** *Approx 50km south east of Brisbane*

Perfect weather was the order of the day for Xepa's April get together at the Redland Bay Hotel. Xepa and Wynnum Manly joined forces and were successful in having their nomination for the 2013 Rort to take the form of a 7 Night South Pacific Cruise accepted in New Zealand at the Nelson Rort. The motion was well received with enthusiasm by the majority of members. 41 Club members from New Zealand and Noumea were also excited by the nomination being adopted. The 41 Club members from New

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Caledonia asked to be included in the programme as Noumea will be one of the Ports of call on the cruise from Brisbane.

It's Muster time again and Xepa members are organising to meet at Amamoor to peg out their site on the first day of August. This year marks the 30th anniversary of the event, hosted by Apex. At least 8 members will be returning on the 20th of August to set up camp and prepare for the 6 day event which commences on the 23rd of August.



Photo of Xepa President Wayne Scott and Gillian Genrich at the recent luncheon at the Redland Bay Hotel

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### **BENDIGO *Approx 153km North West of Melbourne***

Bendigo conducted a tour along the Loddon Valley Highway for their May meeting. Stops included morning tea beside the lake at Boort, tour at Salute Olive farm, lunch at Simply Tomotess and finishing up with afternoon tea at John and Sonia Piccoli's garden with their interesting array of sculptures.

One of John's fine sculptures



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## DANDENONG VALLEY—Approx 35km South of Melbourne

### GEELONG APEX 40 — Approx 73km South West of Melbourne

Geelong had an interesting speaker from the Victoria Police force during May, his name was VIC ROBB—surely he must cop a laugh or two when he introduces himself. Anyway he spoke on “Experiences in life on the subject of Conflict”. In June the club had a guest speaker from the Geelong Military Re-enactment Group. Robin Mawson spoke of Geelong’s Military History.

During September, there will be a “get together” lunch with Bendigo, Melbourne Norwester and Melbourne Gippsland Apex 40 clubs at Woodend on Sunday September 11th.

### MELBOURNE/GIPPSLAND approx. 40km east of Melbourne

During May, Melbourne/Gippsland had Dinner Meeting at the Clayton Bowles Club. In June, members travelled down the coast to Mt. Martha for their meeting which was a luncheon meeting at the Dava Hotel in Mt Martha. (see picture )

On 10th July members will celebrate the 38th birthday of Apex 40 with a lunch at Madeline's Restaurant in Jells Park in Glen Waverley. This is an annual celebration for Melbourne-Gippsland members who formed the first Apex 40 Club in 1973.

Sadly, the number attending the Rort this year is well down on what would normally be expected and this will be the first time ever, at 36 annual Rorts, that Melbourne-Gippsland will not be represented.



Melbourne / Gippsland

Members having a good time



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**MELBOURNE NORWESTERS** *Approx 22km North West of Melbourne*

Melbourne Norwesters will tuck into a Christmas in July lunch at the home of one of their members with all the traditional fare including the brandy cream, it should be a great event. The club picked a number of awards at the convention including the best skit which was a special rendition of the drunken sailor.

**PORTLAND** *Approx 363km South West of Melbourne*

**SUNRAYSIA** *Approx 546km North of Melbourne*

President Elaine, led her group to a Christmas in July at the Pronto Café in Mildura enjoying finger food, mains and dessert all for \$25 per head and of course plenty of wine to wash it down with.

**ADELAIDE HILLS** *Approx 35km South West of Adelaide*

**MACRAMS/MILLICENT** *Approx 400km South of Adelaide*

**PERTH** *Capital of Western Australia*

**DEVONPORT** *—Approx 255km North (West) of Hobart*

One of the many clubs that celebrated Christmas in July except Devonport couldn't wait and celebrated in June and they also started at 12noon. At \$20 a head sounds like they had a great time.

**LAUNCESTON** *—Approx 200km North of Hobart*

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**SEREMBAN APEX 40 — Kuala Lumpur - 3600km North West of Darwin**

**KELAB APEX 40 — Kuala Lumpur - 3654km North West of Darwin**

During the May Dinner Meeting, President Maneam officially introduced his new board at the Bunga Raya Restaurant at the Royal Lake Club. It is interesting that the dinner costs per couple will be less than \$10 (AUS) or \$20 if you are not a member –excluding alcohol.



*L to r: Dr. Thina. Maneam, Nara, Naiker, Surendran, Lawrence & Singam of M'cca Central*

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## **NZ RORT REPORT - Some Rort Photos**



*Bill Cunliffe Attendance award being presented to Juri Denisenko, President of Redland Apex 40*



*Chook and the Chook Band*



*Carol and Bill*



*Ivan Mary and Heather*



*The Aussie Haka Team*

**More  
Photos  
Next issue .....**

**NEXT ISSUE  
CLOSING 10th Sept**

Keep sending in your pictures, club notices and general stories of interest so they can be shared with the rest of the Apex 40 community through our *Roaring 40's publication*.

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***Next issue : Published October  
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\*Earlier issue due to annual holidays***

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**Name Badges - Cost \$7.00**

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Tel: 03 9802 7655

**Car Stickers - \$1.00**

Glenn Rossiter (Betty)  
10 Teewah Street  
Caloundra Qld. 4551  
Tel: 07 5491 3823



**Stick Pins - Cost \$6.00**

**Apex 40 Banners—POA**  
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