

ROARING 40's

March 2013



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



*Was Christmas that long ago?
Members of the Redlands Group enjoying their
Christmas get together.*

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www.apex40.com

The Editors Word!

Welcome,

Our country is taking a bit of a battering of late with the hottest day on record in Sydney, highest number of days ever, without rain in Alice Springs, Tasmania and Victorian fires and floods in Queensland and NSW. Things are so bad in NSW, that they couldn't work whether we have road or rivers to drive on so they combined the department and now call it the Roads and Maritime Services. Let's hope Autumn is an improvement on the previous few months.

There are very few Groups now supplying a copy of their dinner notice or their email, that they send to their members telling them of the next event. The National Board and fellow members are interested in you and would like to know what is happening between RORTS. For Groups who would like privacy, the National Board can offer you an email address to ensure that you will not be bombarded with spam if that is a worry. As an example: bendigo@apex40.com could be arranged.

If you would like more information please email me
web@apex40.com

Ken & Janice Wright
Nepean Valley Group



APEX 40 Website

As promised the Apex 40 website is up and running with the many photos of the 2012 Rort available directly from the site and soon photos from Wyong and the Nepean Valley RORTS will be added. Thanks to Liz Haddon, I was able to copy a number of items before that site went offline. Other items that have been included are, Membership and Group application forms, RORT registration, timely news events and links to some very popular sites. If you have an event coming up like a weekend away and you would welcome other Apex 40 members in the area then let me know I will include it as a news item.

Janice and I will have a short break whilst we enjoy a holiday around Tasmania, during this time the website will remain static, but on our return the site will be updated with more information.

Should you have any items of interest that could be included as an historical item please email them to me (after April would be appreciated)
web@apex40.com regards Ken Wright



National President's Report

Alan Bach - XEPA

Since the last issue devastation caused by fire, wind, and flooding has been continually in the news while parts suffer heat waves and or drought. As far as I can ascertain none of our members suffered too badly during this time, even though some were in very close proximity to some of the worst events. Places that members visited during the last Rort and Post Rort Tour were among the worst affected in the country. A number of members have reported that, at times recently they have had river frontage properties.

The Gympie Apex Muster site was completely ravaged during the recent flooding. Most of the infrastructure was completely destroyed and the site is littered with natural and man made debris. A passionate plea has gone out for urgent assistance. Quite a large contingent of volunteers is expected at the site on March 9th for a big clean-up. As I write, another large rain cell is positioned over Gympie and even more flooding and damage is feared. Check the Apex 40 Website for details and photos.

On Festivals, Mary and I recently attended the bi-annual Chinchilla Melon Festival on the Darling Downs in Queensland and thoroughly enjoyed the well organised event. It was pleasing to see a strong contingent of local Apexians flying the flag and working at 100% capacity. A quarter of Australia's melons come from Chinchilla. I'm sure we will return to the festival in 2015.

Sadly we have lost another Apex 40 member, Margaret Dunn from Wyong and our condolences go to Geoff and family. Also Margaret Hookey from Melbourne has had a set back and our thoughts are with her and Neil.

With the addition of the expertise of our two extra National Board members it complicated our national video link ups. Bandwidth caused us some issues initially but it looks like Ken, with his knowledge, has come to the rescue for us again. Adding Ken to the Board has been a major bonus to the organisation and Bob's invaluable knowledge has helped immeasurably. Bob has been given the new 'Membership Directorship'. I am very pleased with the work Ken has done on the website recently (as well as his contribution to the Magazine). Some members have phoned to let me know that they had been having problems accessing the new updated Website. Pressing the 'Refresh Button' does the trick.

As we go to print, there are still some cabins available for the 2013 Rort. It is pleasing to see that we already have a good rollup. Others have indicated to us that they will be attending so hopefully they will also book soon. Our New Caledonian friends are certainly looking forward to our visit to Noumea and are in the process of organising a welcoming function for those interested. They certainly treated Mary and I to their

warm hospitality on our visit last October. I look forward to seeing you on the Cruise.

Our National Board meetings have posed a number of questions about many things taken for granted in our organisation: why is it so, how did things evolve, what was intended and are we continuing to follow the intent and also our international relationships with other Apex Nations? We have had to annoy Alan Kinder and his compatriots on a number of occasions but even they did not have all the answers. By the time of the AGM we should have a better understanding of all things Apex 40. As a result of our enquiries, Alan has agreed to assist us with compiling an electronically stored history of Apex 40 by providing information on the early days. Anyone else who has something to add would be most welcome to do so.

For the last dozen years or so Apex 40 Name Badges have been ordered off Alan Flaherty and he has them manufactured by a fellow in his locality. Due to the need for us to improve and meet legal and constitutional requirements, all badges must now be ordered through the National Secretary. Alan Flaherty will still be in charge of manufacture and delivery of the badges. For many years we have overlooked to thank Alan for his efforts. On behalf of all the members of Apex 40 Alan, THANK-YOU. Continuing along the same vane, Glenn Rossiter has looked after the procurement and sale of Car Stickers for many years – Thanks Glenn.

On Fraser Island a decision was made to have National Board organise the 2014 Rort in South Australia. Vice President Brian volunteered to research some possibilities and develop a plan. After many months of work, combined with consistent clogging of my In Box, filling it with ideas and possibilities, a plan was formulated. The Board studied and approved Brian's final proposals and have given the go ahead to book venues, transport, caterers etc. The Rort will be held from the 2nd to 5th May 2014 with the PRT following immediately after. Thanks Brian, for the many hours of research and planning. Make a note of the Dates and keep them in your personal calendar. A promotion will appear on the website in due course.

At the recent Board Meeting, I.R.O. Mark raised the issue that it is a long time since Apex 40 has had a 'Mass Tour'. Consensus was that something could possibly be organised for Year 2015. Please let Mark know what you think.

As of June this year the Apex Australia State Bodies will disappear and Apex Australia will operate as a National Body only. The Apex Australia National Convention will be held in Alice Springs where Kate Huth from Western Australia will take over as National President. IRO Mark is a friend of Kate's parents from Apex days and has been in contact with Kate. Apex 40 has been invited to attend the Apex National Convention in Alice Springs in October. There will be no Queensland Apex State Convention this year but a State Awards weekend to be held at Mudjimba on May 12th to 14th. Apex 40 has been invited to participate, at the sort of 'swansong', and the State Branch is looking forward to our attendance.

The MOU between Apex Australia and Apex 40 will not be considered until both organisations have gone through their current upgrades and are in a position to do so. With all that is going on at present the MOU is not a priority. Rest assured, both organisations are keeping and will keep in contact. The position of Apex 40 Australia operating totally in its own right is nearly complete and Apex Australia has been going through a major restructuring phase.

The Apex 40 National Board is compiling a set of Duties and Responsibilities for the various Board Positions to assist new executives in maintaining a flow on covering the basic requirements for each position. Also a 'Document of Assistance' pertaining to Rorts, containing historical data and procedure, is well in preparation to give guidance to future Rort and Post Rort Tour Organisers.

Some misunderstanding or misconception has arisen regarding membership and Insurance and has been brought to our attention; Please see Col's report for verification that the \$6.00 National Membership Fee covers all expenses, including insurance and administration etc. Would all group secretaries please submit the due membership fees to the National Secretary/Treasurer as soon as possible. Annual Subs have been kept to a low level in the hope that 'Groups' would remit their dues on time. It is imperative that all members be covered under our insurance scheme. Thanks to all who have already paid. For others, please spend a little time, tend to the matter and put things in order. Prompt attention to detail will make Col's task so much easier.

Alan Bach.
National President
Apex 40 Australia Inc.

2014 RORT

ADELAIDE SHORES - FOR A RIGHT WHALE OF A TIME

2nd - 5th May, 2014 Adelaide South Australia

More information will follow after 2014 RORT

2015 RORT

The National Board is looking for a host to conduct the 2015 RORT.

Some ideas that have come up are Wollongong , Port Macquarie - Coffs Harbour area and Canberra. We would welcome suggestions and or hosts.



Secretary–Treasurer’s Report

Col Ramsay - Wynnum-Manly Qld

Welcome to members of Apex 40 Australia Inc!

New email addresses for National Board members are as follows:

president@apex40.com

vicepresident@apex40.com

iro@apex40.com

membership@apex40.com

secretary@ apex40.com

web@apex40.com

Alan Bach (Xepa - Queensland)

Brian Fulmer (Maryborough - Queensland)

Mark Tramby (XEPA – Queensland)

Bob Ireland (Melbourne Norwesters - Victoria)

Col Ramsay (Wynnum Manly - Queensland)

Ken Wright (Nepean Valley - NSW)

Precises of National Board meeting:

A meeting of the National Board was held at the residence of Col and Phyl Ramsay on Sunday 10th of February 2013. Present at the meeting were Alan Bach, Mark Tramby and Col Ramsay. Brian Fulmer, Ken Wright and Bob Ireland attended electronically.

It was decided that:

- Ken and Bob were welcomed to the National board as per a motion passed at the November meeting.
- Discussion was held regarding our ASIC registration as well as the registration of the Apex 40 emblem. It was decided unanimously that these two items should be in place prior to the AGM and so action has been taken to do so. We are also proposing to register apex40.com.au and apex40.org.au.
- Although Apex Malaysia has removed the age limit for membership, we have contacted them re Apex 40 and await their response.
- To revisit Apex 40 material:- This is still in the early stages and I will advise the outcome in the Next Roaring 40's and or by email to secretaries (Name Badges, Lapel Badges, Stickers, Banners etc.).
- To revisit the MOU with Apex Foundation. This is still in progress.
- To better co-ordinate with Apex to improve relations. This is also still in progress.

- **Membership**, how do we propose to at least maintain or increase our numbers?

WEB site:

Our webmaster Ken Wright has done a complete re write of the website, so pay it a visit and keep up to date with all things Apex 40. Ken desperately needs your input to keep this up to date. Please forward any news, photographs and your dinner notices for inclusion.

Insurance:

Ken has placed copies of the “Association Liability” and the “Voluntary Workers” certificates on the web site. For the benefit of members and groups more details will appear in the near future.

Membership:

Registration forms from Sub Committees have continued to come in, but we are still missing several. A few groups have not forwarded me their 2013 member details or payment so I would ask again if they would please do so urgently so as to enable me to update the register prior to the AGM.

Six years ago, we had 39 active groups, today we only appear to have 31 and for many years we have had an ageing membership.

Increasing membership has been put high on National Board’s list of priorities. Bob Ireland now has the new membership Directorship and is working with Apex Liaison to spread the words “ **For Continuing Fellowship** ”. Many of our well established groups have not been able to attract new members, so possibly forming new groups may be the answer. Also many Apex Clubs now have ‘Associate Members’ with no age limit and sometimes rely on these members to remain viable. In chasing membership it will remain our intent to complement Apex and not compete.

Membership fees:

I have had several emails and telephone calls regarding our annual membership fee. I would like to point out that the membership fee of \$ 6.00 per person covers the cost of Administration and Insurance, there being NO additional fee for Insurance. Some members/Groups had expected that there would be an additional cost for the Insurance, this is **NOT** the case.

Yours in Apex 40,
Col Ramsay
National Secretary/Treasurer



IRO and Apex Liaison Report

Mark Tramby - XEPA

Not a whole lot happening on the International Relations front at present but I should give everyone advance warning that National Board will be discussing the option of running an Apex 40 International "Mass Tour", probably to coincide with either the 2015 or more likely the 2016 Rort.

This would depend largely on how many clubs would be involved with the home hosting part but it would be envisaged that we'd try and provide accommodation at least in Melbourne / Sydney and Brisbane plus some of our regional clubs.

If you have not been involved in one of these before they are fantastic, you get to meet some wonderful people from many parts of the world and have them stay in your home for a few days.

The home stays would end up being in between paid hotel / motel stays to fill in the gaps and the final itinerary is totally dependant on which clubs put their hand up.

I imagine we would only be looking for a Mini Coach sized tour so it may well be homes for 8-10 couples.

However it's definitely in its infancy and we will run it past clubs before we make a decision to go ahead.

Apex Australia is about to get it's first ever Female National President, Kate Huth (a Queenslander living in Western Australia) and it is hoped that we will be able to create a higher profile within Apex through Kate's assistance.

It's sad that we don't seem to be getting much of a feed of new members from Apex but they have also identified with us that we need to establish some new groups with a few younger members to attract the newly retired 45 year olds!! I well remember when Rosemary and I first came to a Rort (aged 40 at the sunshine Coast) we thought "goodness we are in the wrong place", so I can appreciate their concern and I think the aim will be to have them establish new groups in the first instance.

Anyway as usual all of this is "work in progress".

To those heading off on the Apex 40 cruise I wish you all the very best. The weather should be fantastic (after all it does start from Brisbane so enough said!!) and you'll all have a ball. Sadly Rosemary I can't make this one, we are heading off on another big 4WD trip through the middle of Western Australia so will be "otherwise occupied".

Cheers all

Mark Tramby

The board has adopted a new design for our Apex 40 logo which includes the word Australia underneath the blue triangle and "for Continuing Fellowship" below that. The design is currently being registered.



Margaret Lorraine Dunn

7th November, 1944 - 13th February, 2013



Forever in our hearts

Jom Dumpleton. From Wyong Apex 40 has provided this tribute to Margaret Dunn and Alan McCarthy who were both well known throughout the Apex 40 Community

It was with much sorrow that our members attended the funeral of our dear Margaret on Tuesday 19th February. Margaret had bravely fought cancer for over two years, we were thrilled when she was able to attend our Christmas Luncheon in November.

Geoff & Margaret joined Wyong Apex 40 in 1984 and many Apex 40 members will know them from the many Rorts they attended over the years. Those who came to our Rort in 2009 may recall the morning tea on the Saturday morning where the tables were laden with Margaret's beautiful cakes.

She will be greatly missed by us all as she was such a caring loving member of our Apex 40 Family,

Geoff, Steven, Melissa and family know that we are there for them.



R.I.P. Margaret and Alan

We were also saddened to get news that Alan McCarthy who was a member of our group for many years passed away on Saturday 16th February. Alan and Barbara moved back to Goulburn some years ago and after Barbara passed away, Alan moved into a retirement village at Dapto, where after a long illness he passed away.





Apex 40
2013
Rort
Cruise

15 to 22 June

Brisbane, Noumea, Lifou, Vila, Brisbane

It is great to see how many members have already booked on the Pacific Dawn for our Apex 40 Cruise Rort in June this year. We look forward to getting together for a great week of fun and entertainment.

For those who have booked through Myriam at RACQ Travel, we should have details to contact you prior to the Cruise for last minute information etc. regarding our initial getting together on the ship. Remember that the final Cruise Balance Payment is due late March - early April, with RACQ.

Please note that we still need the name of your Sub Committee. *It is particularly important if you have booked through your own travel agent that you email or contact either Mary or myself with details of your names, sub committee, and cabin and deck nos. as soon as you are able.* We will then have a complete and accurate record of members attending the 2013 Rort for prizes, awards etc. and also to be able to contact you with on board meeting times and places. Thank you to those who have already

informed us of the above details.

We will be organising a daily get together/ activity during the Cruise, and this information will be distributed once we are on board. During our visit to Noumea on the 17th June, we are arranging a low key function with Club 41 there. This will be a wonderful opportunity to meet our Pacific neighbours.

Also the itinerary is:-

Departing **Brisbane** 15th June

Noumea 17th June *Arriving* 3pm *departing* 11pm

Lifou, New Caledonia 18th June *Arriving* 9am *Departing* 5pm

Vila, Vanuatu 19th June *Arriving* 8am *Departing* 5pm

Returning to Brisbane 6am on 22nd June

All other days will be at sea

Phyl Ramsay

0419 297 070

Email: phyl@cir.com.au

Mary Bach

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*Stolen from Redlands Apex 40
Thanks Bill Cramp*



AROUND THE GROUPS

NSW

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

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

CREST BLUE MOUNTAINS APEX 40— *100km west of Sydney*

January 2013 has already provided some wonderful social times for our Crest members. The camping trip to the Wolgan Valley, lunch at Katoomba Golf Club and a great Australia Day get-together at Margaret Webb's, have certainly set the scene for the year to come. In the pipeline is a "girls weekend in Sydney" and a "Trudge to Mudgee" weekend.



Crest Blue Mountains Apex 40 enjoying Wolgan Valley

FORBES—*Approx 380 km West of Sydney*

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

The Thorleys, Squires, Gilmours, Rickeys & Taylors enjoyed a pleasant few hours on Newcastle Foreshore in January, however the night was cut a little short by a southerly change and storm.

The 8th February is a BBQ at the Thorleys, whilst on the 9th of March is a camping or pub stay weekend at St Albans. Followed by the 21st April, when a Car Rally is planned for around the Maitland area with morning tea and lunch at villages on the way. On the 18th May the group is planning a "Host a Murder Night)"

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

NEPEAN VALLEY— Approx 60km west of Sydney

(My Club) - We had a Christmas party at the Ongley's house which was followed by a game of Finska or some may know it as Klop (it sort of an outdoor 10 pin bowling game). In early February, we had a get together at the Nepean Paceway enjoying a flutter or two. Our last event was a Ten Pin Bowling afternoon followed by indulgence of Chocolate at one of those new yuppy places.

WYONG — Approx 100km north of Sydney

Wyong had 33 members attend the Christmas party whilst Sandy and Darrol were cruising around Vietnam. Wyong's picnic meeting was a great success to start the new year, even though they still had a few members away travelling they still had 24 members there and the weather was great.

Their next meeting will be the TRADITIONAL HEILBRUNNS SEAFOOD BANQUET at the home of Dennis and Marie

QLD

CALOUNDRA—Approx 103km North of Brisbane

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

40 members attended the Hogs Breath Christmas dinner with Merle Hurley as President for the first time. Helen and Peter Greer were given a pair of pink sombreros as a parting gift for their upcoming move to Mexico (Sale, Victoria). One member was surprised when told that her home had been nominated as the venue for the AGM, but nobody told her.

In June they have an event called “fish on fire” at the McCullagh’s house. *(We will wait to hear more about this one—poor Goldfish - ed)*

On membership - Redlands have registered 50 members with the National committee. It is also pleasing that events are well attended, considering most of the group is retired and many travel within Australia or overseas, yet still find time to ‘continue the fellowship’. Thank you for your support. Last year Geoff Hegarty made the ‘80s’ club. This year we have several achieving this milestone, including Redland’s Treasurer Ray Despot.



Peter and Helen from Redlands with their gift of Sombreros prior to moving to Mexico or some would call it - Sale Victoria.

SUNSHINE COAST —Approx 100km North of Brisbane

WYNNUM—MANLY Approx 20km east of Brisbane

XEPA GREAT SOUTH EAST Approx 50km south east of Brisbane

Wayne Scott was unanimously elected to continue on a President for another year. It was great for all to catch up with Geoff Harrison from Sarina and Peter Stewart at the AGM. By all accounts everyone had a busy and enjoyable Christmas, in spite of the prevalent wind, rain and flooding. The next function is for lunch on Sunday March 10th at Hogs Breath Lakeside.



Members of the XEPA group at their AGM

VIC

BENDIGO—Approx 153km North West of Melbourne

Bendigo Apex 40 have enjoyed their annual Christmas get-together at the home of Glenis and Denis Roberts. As usual wonderful fellowship and enjoyment of good food was had by all - *check out the Christmas table*
Bendigo's first event for 2013 was a BYO picnic in Rosalind Park.



DANDENONG VALLEY—Approx 35km South of Melbourne

GEELONG APEX 40 — Approx 73km South West of Melbourne

Geelong has a great Christmas Dinner complete with a trivia quiz.

For the first meeting of the year, Geelong had Mrs Tessi Davis from “ANAM CARA HOUSE”, to speak to the group about their involvement in the Community. Anam Cara House Geelong is a community service providing care for people affected by life-limiting illness, and also providing respite for carers.

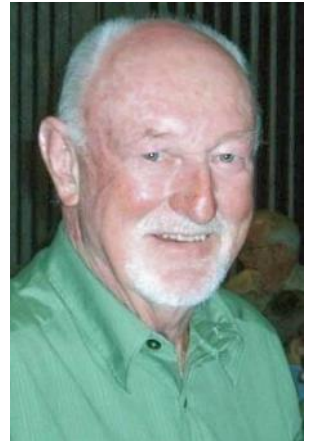
MELBOURNE/GIPPSLAND— approx. 40km east of Melbourne

At the last meeting the group officially adopted the name of Apex 40 Melbourne-Gippsland and Treasurer Colin has since had the Bank Account changed to recognise this name.

At the December meeting they held their Annual General Meeting, with Alan Kinder completing his two year term as President. Alan was pleased to announce that Neil Hookey agreed to accept nomination for the position of President for next year and was elected as such. Alan said “It is also pleasing that our two hard working officials, Secretary Marj and Treasurer Colin have agreed to continue in those roles”.

For the last two years our Christmas collection has been donated to Cottage by the Sea and the group decided to keep supporting this worthy charity.

New President Neil made the following statement “ It says a lot for our dictum of “Continuing Fellowship” that we have been able to keep our Apex 40 flag flying for a further 40 years after we formed in 1973. I know that nothing lasts forever and it would seem that the source from which we grew, the Apex Association, is facing a difficult future. They are sharing administration with Lions to save costs - a twist of fate as it was a retiring Melbourne Apexian, Bill Trezise, who introduced Lionism to Australia, I think in the 1950s. I met up with Bill’s son Max at a Melbourne Apex reunion last month. Max has written a book on Lions Australian history.”



Retiring President Alan Kinder



If you have travelled the Hume Highway in southern NSW during the last three years you may have noticed an increasing number of these poles appearing along the roadside. About ten metres high with a cross-arm which holds two tubes of about 100 mm diameter, they are located at irregular intervals along the highway and there may be from two to five in groups which have no regular

pattern Does anybody know what they are for?

This article appeared in the M/G Newsletter - Hint: How did the Koala get from one side of the road to the other without being flattened - the possums chased them.

MELBOURNE NORWESTERS—Approx 22km North West of Melbourne

PORTLAND—Approx 363km South West of Melbourne

SUNRAYSIA — Approx 546km North of Melbourne

Sunraysia had their AGM and Christmas function at the Mildura RSL Club

SA

ADELAIDE HILLS—Approx 35km South West of Adelaide

MACRAMS/MILLICENT —Approx 400km South West of Adelaide

WA

OASIS CLUB OF SCARBOROUGH —Approx 20km North of Perth

TAS

DEVONPORT—Approx 255km North (West) of Hobart

LAUNCESTON —Approx 200km North of Hobart

APEX 40

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*.

The next issue will be closing just after the 2013 RORT. Please have articles in by 28th June

**NATIONAL PRESIDENT**

Alan Bach (Mary)

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Email: president@apex40.com

NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT

Brian Fulmer (Pam)

Tel: 07 4123 5308

Email: vicepresident@apex40.com

NATIONAL SECRETARY

Col Ramsay (Phyl)

PO box 5204, MANLY, Qld 4179

07 3393 3006

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Mark Tramby (Rosemary)

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**APEX 40 WEBSITE &
ROARING 40'S**

Ken Wright (Janice)

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Email: kawright@optusnet.com.au

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Name badges and other items can be obtained through the National Apex 40 Secretary.

Contact Col Ramsay

Email: secretary@apex40.com

PO box 5204, MANLY, Qld 4179

07 3393 3006

0419 25 30 30

Always ring first to check on availability and postage costs