

Roaring 40's June 2021



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



2021 RORT GROUP PHOTOGRAPH.
(No prize for identifying where this was taken.)

About Us.

For Continuing Fellowship

Apex 40 Australia Inc. is not a Service Club, but an organisation formed to foster fellowship among past Apexians and their partners, and to retain the many friendships formed during their Apex years.

It also exists to assist Apex, when asked, and not to operate in opposition to Apex. It is open to past members and their partners, and also Ex-World Councillors who have retired from their respective organisations.

The Ideals of Apex were to provide a means of forming enduring friendships. So, do you remember the great friendships and fellowship you experienced as a member or partner of an Apex member? Why not continue those friendships and join Apex 40.

Some Apex 40 members decided to form sub-committees which are generally based around past or present Apex Club locations. These sub-committees may meet monthly or less regularly, but all with a view to maintaining and fostering friendships, and occasionally providing assistance to Apex Clubs.

Each year members from Apex 40 gather for a weekend to attend the Annual Convention known as 'The Rort'. During this weekend there is a brief interruption to the festivities to conduct the necessary formality of The Annual General Meeting. In the past, after the RORT, a Post-RORT tour of 4 or 5 days duration has been programmed, visiting areas surrounding the town hosting The Rort. In future both events may be combined and shortened to reduce costs.

The socialising of individual members with each other, across the whole organisation, never ceases. When on an interstate holiday, for example, members invariably look up acquaintances and friends made during the Rorts. It is a huge social club, and fosters friendships between whole families.

There are currently about 35 active sub-committees, some with memberships in excess of 40, plus 39 'Members-at-large'. Members at Large are active members of Apex 40, living or travelling in areas where there is no Apex 40 sub-committee, or find it not practical to join an existing sub-committee, but still participate in our activities.

Membership is open to all past members of Apex, their partners and members of affiliated clubs.



President's Report
Julie Primmer, Sunraysia. Vic.

Welcome to our post Rort newsletter.

With all the emails lately and Col's newsletter some of the news here you may already be aware of, but here it is anyway.

The Bargara Rort was a great success with many interesting places to visit, meals to eat and the ongoing socialisation that we excel at. The weather was kind to us and the one potentially rainy day, it went around us. It was a pleasure to meet in person with the Apex President, Bethany Patterson. We had a good chat about things, the least important being the weight of our respective chains of office and decided that they both weighed about the same and were heavy! In the natural progression of things, Mark Tramby took over the role of Vice-President and Gayl McKay took over from Mark Carter in International Relations. It is wonderful to have another lady on the Board; hopefully there will be more as time goes on. Roz Chessell and Mary Bach were joined by Les Moulds in conducting the very successful fines session.

Darwin was ratified as the destination for the next Rort. This has proved to be a very popular choice as in only a few weeks of registration being open we had reached our set limit of 100 participants. As far as we can tell, booking out this quickly is unprecedented! With some reorganising, we were able to open up another 25 places for Darwin. Many of these have been booked already but we will have a waiting list for those who initially miss out on getting a place, so do not despair entirely.

As I write this, we are experiencing a very cold few days, hopefully we will get a good rainfall as well. Lockdown restrictions are set to be eased (again) in Victoria in the next couple of days so hopefully those planning to head north will be able to do so. Stay safe everyone and enjoy the change of season.

Yours in Apex 40,
Julie.



President Julie is joined by current Apex Australia president, Bethany Patterson, and new board member, Gayl McKay.



Vice President's & Membership Report Mark Tramby. XEPA. Q.

Firstly, what a fantastic Rort in Bargara put on by Kevin & Liz Huxham, a huge week of activities (and who knew 80% of Australia's sweet potatoes were grown in Bundaberg).

It was fantastic to have Apex President Bethany Patterson with us as well as Apex Foundation chairman, Tony Wilshire. I don't think I can remember a time when the leaders of the three corners of Apex were present at a Rort.

At this Rort I was elected your National Vice President, thank you for the honour, I'm looking forward to helping President Julie throughout the year and becoming your next President in Darwin.

I am also continuing in the role of membership but will be looking for someone to stand up and take that position over from me at the Darwin Rort SO if you'd like to be a part of the next National Board then let me know.

Speaking of Darwin, I only have one word, WOW!!

Many thought that this Rort wouldn't work due to its location and the expense of getting there and back but in less than three weeks we sold our original allocation of 100 positions, absolutely amazing. Gayl & Julie will report on what we are doing to fit more in so if you missed out first up don't despair.

For those of you taking up your caravan or Motorhome I've put together a suggested itinerary for the last week leading into Darwin, this is printed elsewhere in the Roaring 40's. There are no bookings held you just make your own if you'd like to join in. I'm aware of quite a few who are going to do this so don't think you'll be alone if you decide to do this.

At the time of preparing this report Victoria is going back into lockdown, I'm sure you'll all agree with me that ultimately, we are all going to have to be vaccinated to get our lives back to normal. Let's hope most of us have had the first and second jabs by May 2022.

Hopefully in my next report I'll have some concrete news for you about a 2023 Rort venue. A NSW group has expressed some interest and hopefully that will come together so it suits both the caravan group and those preferring accommodation. Their aim is to put on a more relaxed Rort which given our ageing membership will be welcomed, I'm sure.

Until then stay safe and remember if you haven't joined our Facebook page please do so, the membership is growing rapidly and it's now becoming a valuable resource for all members.

Yours in continuing fellowship

Mark Tramby



Secretary's Report Col Ramsay. Wynnum Manly. Q.

From the Secretary's desk June 2021

Bargara Rort:

Many thanks to Kevin and Liz Huxham for organizing the 2021 Rort. What a GREAT Rort it was with so much to do and see and so many Apex 40 "family members" to catch up with. This year we had 14 "First Time" Rorters and I believe that they, like the rest of us, had a memorable time. Ken Wright, our WEB Master has added some photographs of both the pre-Rort gathering and the Rort to the WEB page. Check them out at: http://apex40.com/Bargara_2021.php

Darwin Rort:

Darwin Rort is Booming!!! With a limit of 125 attendees, we already have 118 registered. Ken Wright our WEB Master has revamped our WEB page and has provided a "Wait List" for those who still wish to register. Get in now and register by adding your details to the Wait List to ensure your spot for what we all believe will be another fantastic Rort.

Facebook:

Facebook continues to grow in numbers and has become a very important part of Apex 40 communications: another great place where all can share information.

Newsletters:

Between each Roaring 40's, we will continue to send newsletters as important information comes to hand. These Newsletters are not a replacement for the Roaring 40's, just a top up of information for you to enjoy.

Our own travels, (Phyl & Col Ramsay):

As usual, following the Rort, Phyl and I (like a number of other members), extended our time away from home and saw some wonderful parts of this great country. This year we travelled North as far as Port Douglas and only returned home on June 6th.

WEB:	https://apex40.com	Get information about Apex 40;
Registration Darwin:	http://apex40.com/DarwinI.php	116 attendees as of 6/6/2021;
Email:	secretary@apex40.com	636 valid members & friends' email addresses;
Facebook:	https://www.facebook.com/groups/1543334949270004	

Membership details:

We currently have 722 financial members and of those only 392 of these members have an email address registered. If you have not registered your email address with us, please send an email to secretary@apex40.com so that you can be included in information about Apex 40.

Roaring 40's:

Our Editor, Bill Cramp, does a Fantastic job getting all the news of Apex 40 to you. You can assist Bill by sending him any Apex 40 information e.g., articles, dinner notices and photographs. These items are a great resource for Bill to use to help him create this wonderful publication.

Please forward information to Bill for inclusion in Roaring 40's! at roaring@apex40.com

Keep Happy, Healthy and Covid-19 Safe,

YIA40,

Col Ramsay,

National Secretary.

secretary@apex40.com

0419 25 30 30



Treasurer

Keith Miller. Nepean. N.S.W.

What a wonderful time we all had at the Bargara/Bundaberg 2021 RORT. Congratulations to Kevin and Liz Huxham for their organisation of a great RORT, and even better for bringing it in under budget. Well done!

We threw in a couple of mystery tours during the RORT; One to the Bundaberg Botanical Gardens where we were fortunate enough to commandeer the little sugar train ride through the Gardens as a last-minute bonus. This turned into a great photo opportunity for the Rorters on the brightly coloured train with the passengers madly snapping away on their cameras and having a great ride on the little train. A wonderful memory.

The other mystery tour was down to Elliott Heads. The poor lady in the little corner store must have freaked out when two busloads of Rorters/Seniors pulled up, and they made a bee-line straight to the store for coffee and ice-cream. All's well that ends well – the lady rang a couple of her staff and they high-tailed it back to the store to make coffees, so WIN WIN for everybody!

During the course of the RORT, Kevin & Liz organised a stack of raffle prizes. The raffle realised \$980 plus a very generous Fine Session of \$208.50 (by Fine Sergeants Les Moulds, Mary Bach and Roz Chessell). As a result, Apex 40 Australia Inc made the following donations from the proceeds. \$250 Bargara Lioness Club (for the help with Morning Tea & Lunch with the Mon Repos Turtle Centre). \$150 Australian Sugar Train Association (for payment for the train rides at the Botanical Gardens) \$500 Apex Children's Chalet (Apex Foundation). A very pleasing result for all involved.

What an amazing response to registrations for the 2022 RORT. We booked out the 100 available registrations for Darwin within 2 weeks of online registrations opening. Gayl and her organising committee were able to renegotiate a further 25 registration places, and as at the time of this report, we now have 118 registrations, still leaving 7 vacancies for any aspiring 2022 Rorters.

2022 Darwin RORTERS are reminded that the final date for payment (to be eligible for the early bird discount rate) for the 2022 RORT is 28/02/2022.

Just a reminder. We have had a couple of queries during the registration process of the cost of Darwin. The cost of the 2022 RORT is \$980 per person LESS \$100 per person for Early Bird Discount = \$880 per person.

Keep those cheques and direct deposits flowing people!

Keith Miller



International Relations and Apex Liaison

Gayl McKay. Alstonville. NSW.

Since taking over the IRO role my time has been devoted to simply making initial contact with our partners overseas and advising them of our activities.

While Covid currently dictates our ability to travel, or even plan to travel overseas, we can all look forward to rapid vaccination, eventual safety in travel and the return to our normal activities before too long.

Gayl McKay



Webmaster.
Ken Wright. Nepean Valley. N.S.W.

Thanks to Kevin and Liz Huxham, those of us who travelled to Bargara, had a wonderful time, even though it was 2 years in the making. Shortly I will be releasing a number of photographs from the RORT including those on Facebook to our website, enabling everybody to view some of the highlights at the recent event. Just go to the side menu (computers only) and click on Bargara Rort.

Our attention now turns to Darwin and as many of you would know that we are almost at capacity. I have been extremely happy with the online booking system for what it is and how it works and of course how the members have supported it.

With the assistance of Glenn Rossiter and Lionel Mussell, I have successfully retrieved over 200 past Roaring 40's dating back as far as 1973 when Melbourne Gippsland first created the newsletter. In amongst some of the Roaring 40's there were some historical notes and one of those that comes to mind is that. Apex Australia did not want Apex 40 to use the word "Apex" as part of the new organisation. How times have changed! All the Roaring 40s will be available on the website available when using Personal Computer under the publications tab from the side menu. Mobile devices will continue to have a cutdown version of the website.

Ken Wright
Web editor



From the Editor's Desk
Bill Cramp, Redlands. Qld.

I have been elected to continue producing this magazine for the next two years and look forward to editing the issues with interesting reports on what is happening around the country and hopefully including a few lighter moments along the way. There will be historical articles from our brief past and hopefully many memories from our past Apex lives. This is where you can assist by submitting stories of successful service programs and the resulting social outcomes. Or you could recall some of the characters of Apex along the journey.

It would be great if groups that have regular meetings could give me their forward program dates and a contact that can be published here for the benefit of our nomads that might happen to be in the area! Inter club visiting was great and we certainly enjoy meeting members from elsewhere at Rorts, so why not try it on your travels? I hope to visit other groups.

I second Secretary Col's suggestion to forward reports, etc. for inclusion here, to be shared with all the membership. After all, we have one membership, Apex 40 Australia Inc. and we meet in groups or as sub committees.

Here's to another 2 years on interesting publications.

Bill.

Apex 40 National Rort -- Bargara 2021

The 2020/2021 Apex 40 National Rort has finally come and gone, and from all accounts and positive feedback, everyone had a great time!

Although 30 registrations down on last year's cancelled event, we feel truly blessed that it went off without a hitch!

The weather was perfect, food and drinks adequate, friendship and fellowship fantastic, and it was over, all too quick! Not sure how we would cope with just a weekend Rort anymore!

If it were to be held last week, since borders have been slammed shut again, due to Victoria's most recent outbreak, there would be some disappointed people, we feel sure!

The purpose was to run an economically priced Rort, make it available to everyone, and to showcase the local Coral Coast/Wide Bay area, and we believe it achieved that purpose. There was a lot we didn't get to see, but the available time was utilised well!

A huge thank you to Secretary Col whose endless support was of great assistance, to Keith who must spend countless hours stuck on his computer with registrations not to mention keeping the accounts in the black, and what have you, and to Ken for the fantastic job he did with registration and web display area! This alone, coupled with the ongoing support we received, made it all worthwhile!

It would be remiss of me not to thank my wife Liz for her endless support, preparation of slices for the morning tea at Mon Repos, sewing up more banners, and everything else she was enticed into doing, to make it the success that it was!

And a special thank you for all those who made the effort to come along for the week, to share Bargara, Bundaberg and Childers with us!

When the last of the attendees departed Bargara, I have to say that it was very lonely for the two of us that stayed behind. The friendship and fellowship from the members of this Association is electric, and that is probably what went missing when everyone had moved onwards in their travels, or headed towards home, but thank you one and all again, for your attendance!

We now look forward to next year's event in Darwin, bring it on . . .

Kevin & Liz Huxham

Bargara Members at Large



Registration at Club Bargara



Mon Repos Turtle Centre



Greensills Sweet Potato Factory Visit



Subway Lunch at Alexander Park



Bundaberg Rum Distillery visit



Vintner's Secrey Winery tasting



Ballistic Brewery dinner



Grunskies Seafood restaurant lunch



Around the Sub-Committees

New South Wales

Alstonville 740 kms north of Sydney

Alstonville Apex 40 latest lunch and meeting was held at the Ballina RSL on 3rd June. It was well attended with over 20 members present. It is a lovely venue by the river which the group have decided to make their permanent venue for the time being. The RSL is so easy for all to get to and being a club, does not require lots of booking with exact numbers, making it easy to organise. Anything for ease.

The group has decided for the next 2 months to meet on the first Thursday of the month at noon, making Thursday 1 July 2021 the next meeting and Thursday 5 August 2021 the one after. If anyone is in the area, they are very welcome to just turn up and ask staff to point out the group.

Byron Bay 760 kms north of Sydney

Blue Mountains Crest 100 kms west of Sydney

Latest monthly meeting was held on 8th June. A recent trip to Portland went very well starting with a lovely sunny day. All the paintings around town of the old ads were very interesting...some no longer in use but quite a lot are still around. The paintings on the silos of some of the workmen from the cement works were very good. If you haven't been to Portland, it is well worth a trip.

Great 8 Hunter Valley 170 kms north of Sydney

Meet monthly with recent venues of Telarah Bowling Club in April, Royal Spoon Indian Restaurant, Lorn in May, Casserole nite this month and Annual Changeover at The Old Maitland Inn for July. LYN DARK has been put on the Hidden Treasurers Honour Roll for 2020 at the annual dinner held by Women's Network Hunter NSW.

Inverell 560 kms north west of Sydney

Leeton 590 kms south west of Sydney

Lismore 745 kms north of Sydney.

Manly 15 kms east of Sydney.

Moree 640 kms north west of Sydney.

Nepean Valley 60 kms west of Sydney.

Wyong 100 kms north of Sydney.

Meet monthly at Lee Rowan's Garden Centre, Ourimbah. With several members travelling to the Bargara Rort and enjoying the warmer Queensland weather for an extended holiday, more than a dozen fronted for an enjoyable the day out in April and May. Next lunch is booked for 24th June.

Victoria

Bendigo 153 kms north of Melbourne

Dandenong Valley 35 kms south of Melbourne

Geelong

73 kms south west of Melbourne

Dinner meeting and AGM was noted to be held on 18th March with all executive positions being vacated. Haven't heard if this went ahead.

Melbourne-Gippsland

40 kms east of Melbourne

Melbourne Nor-westers

22 kms north west of Melbourne

Souwest

270 kms south west of Melbourne

Recent meetings have been held at the Panmure pub on 6th April and 1st June. No further details are known.

Sunraysia

546 kms north west of Melbourne

At their last get together at the Werrimul pub, a new committee was called for; any member under 70 was duly elected!!! President, John Hiskins, Secretary, Glenda Hiskins & Treasurer, Mozz Anderson.

They acknowledged the wonderful job that Elaine, Annette & Mozz have done for many years.

The first get together will be at the Pizza Café at The Grand on Sunday July 25th at 12:00.

Queensland

Caloundra

103 kms north of Brisbane

Held a St Patrick's day at Picnic Point in March, a breakfast meeting at Wurtulla in April and plan their next gathering at the Alexandria Surf Club bistro for the 25th June.

Curtis Coast

530 kms north of Brisbane

Gold Coast.

80 kms south of Brisbane

On 11th April 2021 they held a luncheon at 'Sea & Shore' restaurant overlooking the fabulous Gold Coast Broadwater with 31 attendees.

We had, for the first time, Scott O'Donnell and Karen Lamberton from the Southport Apex Club and Paul Hewitt, a Life Member of Weston Creek Apex (A.C.T.) but now a resident of the Gold Coast, in attendance. The restaurant provides an extensive lunch menu with many choices at a moderate price and has the advantage of also being B.Y.O.G.

Our next luncheon is planned to be held in late July / early August and following a special request, it may be held on a Tuesday. How that will affect numbers attending, remains to be seen.

Hervey Bay

290 kms north of Brisbane

Maryborough

290 kms north of Brisbane

Redlands

35 kms south east of Brisbane

Redlands met for lunch at the Barcella Restaurant, Victoria Point on 28 March and again in David & Jenny McCullagh's bayside garden on 30 May. Over 30 members were present at each of these venues. Pizza delivery was used for the main followed by a slab of chilled cheesecake, fresh strawberries and cream!

Calorie count did not apply this day.

Wynnum Manly

20 kms east of Brisbane

Next meeting is planned for 21st June on the Manly foreshore for a BBQ, buy fish and chips from across the road or bring your own.

XEPA Great South East

30 kms south east of Brisbane

June outing is planned to be barefoot bowls at Macleay Island Bowls Club followed by lunch in the club bistro. A short ferry trip to the island makes this a fun day (gentle exercise, good food and fresh air).

South Australia

Adelaide Hills

35 kms south east of Adelaide

Tasmania

Devonport

255 kms north west of Hobart

Launceston

200 kms north of Hobart



Caloundra St Patrick's Day lunch.



Childers Backpacker Memorial



Relaxing after dinner at the Brewhouse



Morning tea and cartoons at Childers Paragon.



Dinner & dancing at RJ's Rock n Roll

Friday, 28 May 2021

INVERELL tourism advocates and long-time promoters of the Newell Highway, Les and Yvonne Moulds, have this week been recognised for more than 30 years' service advancing country NSW's visitor economy, with Northern Tablelands MP presenting the couple with life memberships on behalf of the Newell Highway Promotions Committee (NHPC).

Mr Marshall said the dedication of Les and Yvonne to encouraging tourism and caravanning along the scenic Newell Highway had resulted in millions of extra dollars flowing into rural and regional communities.

"Spanning 1,058 kilometres from Goondiwindi in Queensland to Tocumwal on the NSW Victorian border, the Newell Highway passes through 15 local government areas and is the lifeblood of more than 20 towns and villages," Mr Marshall said.

"Over a 20-year period in his former role as Tourism Manager at Inverell Shire Council, Les used his association with the NHPC to advocate and encourage tourism in each and every one of those communities, along with towns like Inverell which are only a short drive off the highway.

"Les was the NHPC's longed serving Treasurer and he worked tirelessly to coordinate multiple brochures to promote the entirety of the Newell – no easy feat when dealing with so many council areas.

"The many years Les and Yvonne spent travelling to major tourism events like the Melbourne, Adelaide and Brisbane Caravan and Camping Shows as the NHPC's consumer show coordinator is a legacy which rolls along the length and breadth of that road way.

"Known amongst tourism operators as the King and Queen of the Newell, the success of many smaller visitor economies would be far less if it wasn't for the dedication of this regional royalty.

"It is an absolute privilege to be able to crown Les and Yvonne with this life membership and I thank them on behalf of all Newell Highway communities for their passion for spreading the word about our great part of the world."

This is the latest honour bestowed on this couple by their community. In November 2017 Les celebrated 50 years as a Justice of the Peace and in the Australia Day Honours 2019, he was awarded the Order of Australia Medal. We salute you!



Territory 22

With registrations almost at 100%, if you miss out now, add your name to our wait list, as cancellations can happen.

Darwin 18 ~ 24 May 2022

Apex 40 Pre Darwin Rort 2022 Caravan Convoy

About the Convoy

Sadly, Rosemary and I will not be joining you in our caravan this year. We had already committed to attending a caravan event in Victoria in April and then our annual National Gathering for our Lotus Caravan group and subsequent convoy to outback Queensland in June. So, the logistics of doing all three by caravan just didn't work. BUT, I'm happy to arrange the itinerary and assist however we won't be travelling with you. There are no set departure or arrival times each day and you are encouraged not to travel along all in a line. DO NOT think of this as a "tag along tour". It's just a suggested itinerary that you can choose to join in for the full itinerary or if you prefer just a section. Nobody is "group leader", no one is "the boss". It's just your choice to be at these places and enjoy the company of the other Rort attendees. The meet point has been designed to suit those coming up the middle from the southern states OR those coming around through Queensland. The meeting point is just up the road from "Three Ways" where the Stuart and Barkly Highways meet.

Sunday 8th May

First port of call on the run into Darwin will be the fabulous "Banka Banka" station stay, just off the Stuart Highway, 77 kms north of Three Ways. This will suit those coming from either of the major arterial roads leading to Darwin.

Now this is a station stay so it's largely unpowered, however they do have just a few powered points (not enough to run air conditioning just to keep the power up to your fridge / lights). You would need to call in advance to book these. If going unpowered no need to book, just arrive and they will put you in position. They have an excellent open camp fire area with fires each night and on some night's, entertainment (usually the donation type) and the toilets and showers are wonderful (hot and strong pressure).

This will be a fantastic meet point and start to the Convoy.

Banka Banka West Station

(08) 89644511

bankabankawest@mcmurtriecompany.com.au

Monday 9th May

Free day and give everyone time to relax.

Tuesday 10th May

Leave Banka Banka today heading north to the historic "Daly Waters Pub" (which is a short drive off the Stuart Highway), a distance of 305 kms.

No bookings are required (although you can actually book if you want to) and you can choose either a powered option or unpowered which is at the back of the facility.

The main aim of coming here is to see the historic pub and enjoy their famous "beef and barra" night with entertainment. If you have never done it, it's great, if you have done it already you can choose from the normal menu if you prefer.

Daly Waters Pub Caravan Park

(08) 89759927

dalywaterspub@cartersretail.com

Wednesday 11th May

It's a shorter drive today (170 kms) to Mataranka where I suggest you stay at Mataranka Homestead Tourist Resort (just off the Stuart Highway on the right-hand side). If you have never been this is an oasis in the desert with beautiful hot mineral springs to enjoy in a very well set up area that's suitable for all ages and physical abilities (don't forget your swimmers).

Mataranka Homestead Tourist Resort

(08) 89754544

matarankahomestead@bigpond.com.au

Bookings are a must here, powered and unpowered are available.

Thursday 12th May

Free day to enjoy the springs

Friday 13th May

It's a very short run today (110kms) to Katherine where you'll be staying at the Katherine Holiday Park (a huge park with lots of facilities including a huge camp kitchen).

Katherine Holiday Park

20 Shadforth Road

Cossack, Katherine, NT

(08) 89723962

bookings@katherineholidaypark.com.au

Bookings are absolutely essential here as its very very popular.

Saturday 14th May & Sunday 15th May

These are free days in Katherine although there's a LOT to do here including the main event, the Katherine Gorge Cruise. What I suggest here is closer to the time I can arrange a group booking so you can all do the cruise together, but let's wait and see how the numbers go first of all.

For more information on things to do here, Katherine Tourist Information Centre is a great start and you can call them toll free on 1800653142.

Monday 16th May

Today is the end of the pre-Rort Convoy and the longish drive up to Darwin of 320kms where you'll arrive at the Rort Caravan Park the Lee Point Caravan Park.

Past zone 9'ers may be interested in this article on another character of our Apex history, supplied by Terry Hoffman, current Nepean Valley member.

John England

Wellington Apex Club No.34

John England joined Wellington Apex Club in 1962 at the age of 18.

He was one of the "characters" of Apex and was an active member for 21 years.

In 1972-73 he was elected vice-president of the club. During that year the president (Tony Weiss) was selected to go on a Rotary Exchange tour of USA. John took over as president during Tony's absence and served for 6 months

In 1974-75 the club elected him as president.

In 1975-76 he was awarded Zone 9 Apexian of the Year.

In 1976-77 John served as District Governor Zone 9 District 3.

In 1981 he attended the Golden Jubilee Convention in Geelong along with 4 other members from Wellington Club.

In 1983 John retired after 21 years of service and was awarded Life Membership.

He passed away on 20th February 2021 from bowel cancer. He would have turned 78 on 1st April 2021.

John is survived by his wife Marilla and daughters Elanor and Kirstie, son Roderick.



Mike Poulton, John England, Terry Hoffman, Alan Mills and David Pullen Wellington Club members at Geelong 1981.



John England, Terry Hoffman and Edmond Mellick receiving their Life Membership, changeover dinner July 1983.

APEX 40



A Brief History of the Early Days

One balmy Sunday evening in 1972, during a cruise on the Swan River in WA, the idea of Apex 40 was born



Neil



Lionel

The two men cruising the river that evening after the 1972 Apex National Convention at Subiaco, were Apexians Neil Hookey and Lionel Mussell and their idea of an organisation for retired Apexians, was wholeheartedly endorsed by then Zone 12 President David Cotton.

Some months later, Lionel invited selected ex-Apexians and their wives to a barbecue at the Devilbend reservoir on the Mornington Peninsula with the aim of starting what was to become Apex 40. Rain intervened and the gathering adjourned to Lionel and Vi's home at Mornington

Present at the inaugural bbq were Lionel and Vi Mussell, Alan and Nola Kinder, David and Judith Saunders, Kevin and Rosemary Frazer, Lee and Shirley Garrett.

A number of important decisions are made that day. One of the most important was that wives would be full members - this was in recognition of the wonderful support Apexians always got from their spouses.

It was decided that the name of the organisation would be Apex 40 and that those at the meeting would constitute a Steering Committee to guide the organisation through its inaugural stages. The committee would cease when an elected committee took over.

An invitation would be sent to likely members for Apex 40 Dinner Meeting No 1 at the Keysborough Hotel on the 14th of December, 1973.

The invitations were duly sent using the first Apex 40 newsletter called 'The Message Stick' that later became 'The Roaring 40s'.

Our first Dinner Meetings

There were 52 people at our first dinner meeting including former Mornington Apexian, The Hon Alan Hunt and Zone President David Cotton and his wife Pat. The cost of the dinner was \$4!

There had been a meeting of the steering committee on the 25th of November and although the minutes are not available I remember that several important decisions were made.

It was agreed that membership would be open to retired members and their wives, Life Members and their wives and former members who had retired early in good standing plus any members of affiliated organisations like Kin 40, Round Table and 20/30.

The name Apex 40 was endorsed and, although this caused some problems with Apex later on, it has been retained to this day.

Our second dinner meeting was held at the Keysborough hotel on the 11th of February and saw 40 members present to hear an interesting talk by the Melbourne City Coroner, Harry Pascoe.

Another committee meeting was held on March 3rd and it appears that an election had been held with Office Bearers including President: Lionel Mussell, Secretary/Treasurer: Kevin Frazer and Expansion Director, Alan Kinder.

It was reported that there were now 66 members and a programme of events for the year was arranged. The name for the Newsletter was changed to 'The Roaring 40s' and is still used for communications from the National Committee.

Getting Social

The next function was a social day on March, 30th at Bonnie Doon on Lake Eildon with instructors to teach water skiing. Your scribe holds the record for underwater skiing as he forgot to let go of the rope after falling off. ³

The previous pages are a reprint of Lionel Mussel's report to the 2016 Geelong Rort on the origins of our organisation.

A copy can be found on the Apex 40 website along with much detailed information on our organisation today.

Apex Foundation News

Welcome to this, our first newsletter for 2021

Great to get back to some normality, after 2020.

The Board met face to face for the first time since 2019 in late March. The venue was down at The Entrance in NSW, & it was great to have the interaction again.

It was also great for all the Directors to meet Apex Australia National President, Bethany Paterson (only ever seen her on Zoom) and her very positive contribution to the meeting.

Due to work commitments and a busier life on the home front, Stephen Bigarelli resigned from our Board, effective 31st of March. He will be sorely missed. Stephen has been a significant contributor to the Apex Foundation for over 18 years. Was the Chairman for 4 years. A huge mention also to Stephen's wife, Deb. She has been a great supporter of the Foundation over many years.

The Board unanimously elected Neal Molineaux as Stephen's replacement. Congratulations Neal on your appointment, and I am sure you will be a great contributor over many years.

It is pleasing to see both the SHACK and Copper Coast facilities operating normally again, thanks to the great committees here. The Chalet should be open for normal activities in the next couple of months. A lot of work has been done down there, with repairing of flooring, and relaying of carpets. Many Apex Clubs involved here, as well as a very hardworking committee. Great to see Emma Jackson (Geraldton Apexian and Apex WA Regional Coordinator) taking up the challenge to be the Chair of the WA Civilian Widows Trust. Congratulations Emma and it is great to see a WA Apexian being fully involved here.

At the moment, the Board is continuing with a strategic process to determine what we as a Board need to do, to future proof and ensure that the Foundation remains relevant into the future. To this end we are conducting a number of specific Zoom meetings, and I will let you know more, as these meetings progress over the next 12 months.

This newsletter also covers a lot about the Apex Australia National Project: Mental Health Initiative. I encourage everyone of you to support this great project.

The Board is continuing to look at bringing on new directors. If any of you feel that you have the attributes / credentials to become a director in the future, please ring me.

Hope you all are having a better year and are staying healthy.

Very much looking forward to coming to the Apex 40 Annual RORT in early May, to be held at Bargara Beach in Queensland, and also the Apex National Convention in Bundaberg in October.

Cheers,

Tony Wilshire

The full newsletter can be accessed at:

https://mcusercontent.com/ff0d7d731ee5df24ef083663d/files/6a61cb7f-0c4b-39cc-1d6c-2e8814583dee/Apex_Foundation_Australia_Newsletter_May_2021.01.pdf

Apex Australia News

The 2021 National Convention will be held in Bundaberg 7 – 10th October. Full details available at:

<https://www.apexconvention.com.au/schedule?fbclid=IwAR3x90qOJkrxKJoXbrX57Zc3j3iHJdZY6Llo4Qq41MZSS89EUP3KzQizXmk>

What a great convention with a difference! On the 14th November we had our 89th Convention but our first ever via Zoom. Whilst it was disappointing that we couldn't meet face-to-face due to Covid-19, it was great to see that our virtual convention enabled Apexians from all over Australia to join in, with around 100 people present, and we were also honoured to be joined by Life Governor Subhash Bhola from Apex India and Life Member CS Naidu from Apex Malaysia, along with Julie Primmer, National President of Apex 40. We also had the company of a couple of non-Apexians who thought they would 'enhance' our screen sharing with some of their own material, and let's just say that their membership applications may be declined.

Note to self, don't post the Zoom link on Facebook!

Special mention to the Queensland contingent for organising a state catch-up which was so well attended. Our Delegates Briefing Forum prompted some robust discussion and gave our National Board Directors an opportunity to respond to concerns. Our member's training was a full day of training condensed into 1 hour and our plans to hold a 90th Celebration in Geelong in March and the Convention in Bundaberg in October gives us hope for much-awaited fellowship for Apexians across Australia. How much fun was the quiz?!

Thank you so much to Elise Malberg and the Bairnsdale Club for bringing out our competitive spirit.

Congratulations to all of our National Award winners:

Apex Australia Newsletter Award	Daniel Lascelles, Kadina
Apex Australia Publicity Award	Apex Club of Bairnsdale
Apex Australia Service Project Award	Apex Club of South Wagga Wagga, Mighty Murrumbidgee Duck Race
Apex Australia Citizenship Initiative	Paula Venning, Kadina, 2020 Interclub Walk
Apex Australia Club of the Year	Apex Club of Beaufort
Apex Australia Regional Communicator of the Year	Emma Jackson, Geraldton, RC 14, North WA
Apex Australia Best First Year Apexian	Kaye McIntyre, Fraser Coast
Apex Australia Young Apexian of the Year	Jacob Venning, Kadina
Apex Australia Apexian of the Year	Paula Venning, Kadina

Apexians are a humble bunch and we don't often sing our own praises, and that is why our awards are so important because it brings to light all of the fantastic things we are doing around the country. Well done to all of our amazing award winners.

A huge congratulations to Mick Godfrey, it was an honour and a privilege to have you as our National President, you are a shining example for Apexians around Australia and the world, and have left a lasting legacy. Thank you to everyone who contributed to making our Zoom Convention a success and I look forward to seeing you all in person in the near future.

Yours in Apex,

Bethany Paterson

National President 2020-2021 Apex Australia

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.



WEB: www.apex40.com

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1543334949270004/>

Or search for Apex 40 Australia Inc

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Name badges (\$10), Lapel Badges (\$10) and Apex 40 Sticker (\$4), including postage can be obtained through the National Apex 40 Secretary.

Always ring or email first to check availability or any postage cost changes.

