

ROARING 40'S

March 2010



Apex 40 is the recognized body of
Affiliated Past Apexians Groups

www.apex40.org

NATIONAL PRESIDENT REPORT –

Bob Ireland, Melbourne Norwesters



It is with great pleasure that I put pen to paper to place some of my thoughts before you. Firstly I trust that we all survived the Festive Season, and look forward to another great year of bigger and better things.

Well, another year has passed by and time seems to pass more quickly as I get older. Is it just me? I used to think people were mad when shortly after they retired they stated that they wondered how they found the time to go to work, but now I know what they were talking about!

I hope you have registered for this year's Rort in Bendigo. It is not too late if you haven't, so complete the form and mail it to the 'Sheriff'. The Bendigo people have arranged a fantastic weekend, and Post Rort tour, and if it is anything like those that they have organised in the past, then you won't want to miss out.

For those of you who haven't heard, the Grafton Oasis (Apex 40) Club has officially folded, but the Chessell's and Bett's are continuing with us as members at large, and I understand will be at Bendigo.

This year we will see Rob Beveridge retire as Past President, and the election of a Vice President to replace him on National Executive. I want to take this opportunity to thank Rob (and Kaye) for the great job he has done over the past three years, and look forward to staying in touch well into the future....Thanks Rob.

Also Alan and Mary have indicated to me that this will hopefully be their last Roaring 40's edition as they move on to semi retirement, and as I indicated above, they find out how time seems to disappear when you no longer work! I will let you know who our new editor is when we meet at Bendigo.

I also want to pass on my best wishes for a speedy recovery to those who have not been well, in particular Alan Kinder and Bev Foss. We all look forward to seeing you fit and well in Bendigo.

I am still a little worried about the potential numbers for New Zealand next year. It would seem a pity if our numbers are significantly below our average Rort attendance, so please think about it.

I am also seeking nominations for the 2012 Rort.

NATIONAL SECRETARY / TREASURER – Wendy Smith



The beginning of a new year: holidays are over, and it's time to get back to Apex duties.

Branch registrations were due and payable by 31 December 2009. If your club has not paid affiliation fees, please do so promptly.

Please remember: if your club is '*unfinancial*' at the time of the Bendigo Rort, your members will not be entitled to vote on any business matters, at the Annual General Meeting.

Sadly, Grafton club held their last meeting on 25 October 2009. I am happy to report former Grafton members - Peter and Roz Chessell and John and Lyn Betts - will remain in the Apex

Family, as Members at Large.

On behalf of National Board, I would also like to 'welcome back to the fold' members from Inverell, NSW and Albany Creek Northside Creakers from Queensland.

We also welcomed Gympie Apex 40 club in October 2009. Gympie have a total of thirty-five members. In January 2010 we welcomed Crest Blue Mountains Apex 40 club.

It was lovely to catch up with members from Melbourne Gippsland, Bendigo, Melbourne Norwesters and Geelong Apex 40 clubs in October, when we had a combined luncheon at Woodend. Many thanks to Bob Caldwell, President of Bendigo, and Geoff Angus, President of Melbourne Gippsland, for arranging such a terrific day.

It was the first time we had met some of the Geelong people. Formerly the Oasis Club of Geelong, the club held their first Christmas dinner in December under their new banner - *Geelong Apex 40 Club*. Congratulations to President John Van Galen and Geelong members.

The countdown to the 2010 Rort is well and truly under way. I take this opportunity to wish the Bendigo Rort Committee every success.

I look forward to meeting up with many of you in Bendigo.

“If you can’t afford to do something right, then make darn sure you can afford to do it wrong”

AROUND the CLUBS

MARYBOROUGH, Qld – Brian Fulmer, President.

Thirty seven members of Maryborough Apex 40 recently took off by coach on a “mystery” tour for their Annual Xmas function. Only the President & bus driver knew of their various destinations. On the way to our first stop everyone was handed a trivia questionnaire with a prize of two bottles of bubbly Xmas Cheer – this was won by Ann & Graham Gauld & presented over lunch.



Afternoon Tea Stop at Vintner’s Secret for Maryborough (Q) Christmas Party Tour

Leaving Maryborough the coach headed north to Childers & their first stop at the Isis Winery which specialises in Jaboticaba wines & liqueurs. Our hostess June provided cheese & biscuit platters & an abundance of product to be sampled. This winery is well worth a visit as its products are quite unique & different from the other wineries in the area.

From there it was just up the road to the Apple Tree Creek Hotel for a lovely Xmas lunch of prawns, chicken & ham out on the balcony –

washed down with a few amber ales. Our hosts had decorated the area with plenty of little treats on the tables. A lively fine session was conducted by Keith Hartley & Rollo Nicholson. After lunch the Club headed back towards Childers with their third stop at Vintner's Secret for a wine tasting of some 10 different varietals together with tea, coffee & Xmas cake for afternoon tea.

From there it was a relaxed & well satiated group that returned to Maryborough. Everyone agreed it was a great day out.

MELBOURNE-GIPPSLAND – Geoff's Angus – President.

Much of the following is extracted from the President's Report for 2009 but our early 2010 activities are also included.

The Kinder Classic went ahead in early January 2009 and despite the best efforts by our golfing members, the Kinder Classic was won by "the next generation" in the form of Mike Pavey's son in law and Garth Whitchurch's son as runner up. However the January 2010 Kinder Classic was different – Mike Pavey, playing like a champ, won the trophy from Melbourne Norwester representative, Max Cheney, followed closely by past Camberwell Apexian Geoff Heath.

In 2009 we had 6 meetings – 5 dinner meetings at Clayton Bowls Club and a luncheon at the Dava Hotel in Mt Martha. Typical attendance was in the low 20s, which is somewhat disappointing for a Branch of nearly 50 members. However we are especially grateful for the facilities provided by the Bowls Club and the high standard of meals by Chef Mary.

We were well represented at the 2009 Apex 40 Rort at Forrester Beach hosted by Wyong Apex 40. Our contingent of 13 was the reason why we won the "Bill Cunliffe Memorial Attendance Award" (also known as the "Challenge Trophy for Best Attendance"). We also won the Karaoke-style of entertainment contest lead by Alan Kinder and ably supported by Neil & Margaret Hookey, Jean Reid and Alan Flaherty and this provided us with "The Bull Horn" trophy.

While the main aim of our meetings has been the enjoyment of each others company, we did share a very interesting oral and visual presentation at the August meeting by Alan Kinder about Alan's and Nola's Kimberley Coast trip. Alan was also responsible for a couple of interesting quiz sessions at meetings.

The Melbourne Cup BBQ gathering at the home of Geoff & Lyn Angus was well attended with about 30 members and friends. Again, Mike Pavey is to be thanked for his role as the bookmaker as do the ladies who supplied the salads and deserts.

Our train trip to Woodend to meet with fellow Apex 40 members from Bendigo, Geelong and Melbourne Norwesters was a great success. Having 51 people attend the luncheon, was an excellent way of enabling members from different Branches to enjoy each others company. Keating's boutique brewery seemed to have the same effect!

The final activity prior to our Christmas dinner meeting was attendance by 8 of our members at the play "Much ado about Murder". It was a very enjoyable late Sunday afternoon event and our thanks go to Patricia Tonkin for advising us of the play – and her starring role in it.

At our Christmas dinner meeting we re-elected Marj Flaherty as Secretary, Colin Speirs as Treasurer and Alan Padgham as Newsletter Editor. They all have done an excellent job with Marj and Alan having served for countless years in their respective positions and with Colin as a relatively "new boy" of 4 years as Treasurer.

Unfortunately we didn't find a new President at our AGM despite efforts to do so by the out-going President. Consequently Geoff Angus continues in the expectation that someone might be kind enough to relieve him of his duties.

Following the successful 2010 Kinder Classic Golf day on 8th January, we will meet together on 7th February at the Healesville Picnic Races with our first dinner meeting to be held on 25th February. This will be followed by our midweek away at Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park in late March, another dinner meeting on 22nd April just ahead of the Bendigo Rort on 30th April to 3rd May.

BENDIGO - Bob Caldwell

Bendigo Apex 40 Celebrates its 32nd Year by welcoming Apex 40 and Club 41 New Zealand Members to 'Our Golden Town' Bendigo for the 'Gold and Old' Apex 40 Rort Number 35.

"GOLD & OLD" Rort Friday 30th April – Friday 7th May 2010

Bendigo is a buzz at the present moment awaiting an influx of Rorters with intentions of visiting the City of Greater Bendigo & Surrounding District.

Bendigo is the fastest growing inland city in Australia. It is unbelievable that the population has increased to outnumber Ballarat in the period since we hosted our last National Apex 40 Rort of “Wine, Mine & Dine in ‘99”.

Rorters will have a chance to experience the following attractions:

Bendigo boasts the Best Regional Art Gallery in Australia which for the last 3 years has been the only gallery in Victoria to display the “National Archibald” Entries.

The Sacred Heart Cathedral, the last English Gothic-style built cathedral in the Southern Hemisphere. ‘The Great Stupa’, under construction which will be the largest Buddhist stupa in the Southern Hemisphere. The Capital Theatre hosting national & international acts and the Great Tourist Information Centre, now housed in the old architecturally pleasing G.P.O, which everyone should endeavour to visit (if possible).

The greatest collection of magnificent ornate buildings, built in the late Victorian colonial-style of the Gold boom era, outside of the main capital cities. Prominent buildings include the Bendigo Town Hall (1859, ’83-85) Post Office, Law Courts (1892-96) Shamrock Hotel (1897), Mechanics Institute (1854) & School of Mines (1864) & Fortuna Villa (1854-1907)

Many examples of classical architecture that rank amongst the finest classical commercial buildings in Australia and include the Colonial Bank (1887), former Masonic Hall (1873-74), Bendigo Pottery (1858)

An abundance of wineries, which produce and release a broad selection of varieties of wines, with reds (shiraz & cab. sav) being a specialty. Home to the finest restaurants, cafes, wine bars, pubs and local produce outlets in country Victoria.

Bendigo is the home of the biggest Swap Meet in the Southern Hemisphere and the Tramways Museum & Depot is the oldest working tram depot in Australia, dating back to 1903.

The Latrobe University of Melbourne’s Bendigo Campus is the University’s second largest campus. This has created a big industry for the town especially with many students requiring rental accommodation.

All of the above are quite accessible from the four accommodation venues selected for the Rort are available. The three motels are beside each other and the caravan park is on the city fringe not too far away.

Melbourne is discovering us on a daily basis. Investors from the capital now own over a third of all our real estate (for both rental & owner-occupiers), which in turn is causing a sharp rise in prices. This prosperity has a down side making it difficult for the local home-buyers, particularly 1st home-buyers.

Rort Program – 30th April to 3rd May

So, as you can see, we have a great backdrop for presenting “A Week-Long Rort/Post Rort Program” with ‘Suitable Accommodation’, ‘Fellowship’, ‘Tours, Venues, Food, & Entertainment’ & just ‘Pure Fun’. All this, despite the fact that Bendigo lost 54 homes a year ago on Black Saturday with residents starting to move back. We are also coming off 10 yrs of dry weather. But you will be pleased to know that we had some reasonable rains in Jan/Feb. and we are hoping for more by the time you all arrive.

Suitable Accommodation: The 3 selected motels are within 100 m. of each other and are all opposite Lake Weeroona, a Bendigo landmark created in 1878. So, we will be all quite close to our “Welcoming Night” at Quills Restaurant on the Friday Night, the Dinner Dance at “Silks” (at the racecourse) on the Saturday Night and the “Farewell Breakfast” on the Monday morning. The Big 4 Caravan Park is 2.5 kms away from the motels and situated beside the racecourse, which certainly assists us to move everyone with some ease and comfort, as all accommodation is north of the CBD, on the Echuca-side of our city.

Fellowship Opportunities: Obviously, this is what the whole week is about and hence the opportunity to mix & mingle has been made a priority of the total program, starting on the Friday night and ending on the following Friday for Post-Rorters. Also, with an equal split of attendees between the 3 motels & the caravan park, the opportunity for informal gatherings (i.e. a happy hours) is certainly on the agenda. The invitation is there Go for it!

Tours, Venues, Food & Entertainment: The tours, venues & entertainment have been organised to give an obvious ‘gold & old’ theme to the Rort. As for the food, I don’t believe anyone will go hungry. (“Just like all other Rorts, we tend to over-indulge”). But just in case you need verification, we have planned & organised the following:-
Friday Night - finger food & some local wine tasting from 6.30 pm – 10.00 pm at Quills Restaurant, found at the LakeView Motel (one of the Rort Motels)

Saturday - Sacred Heart Cathedral tour, morning tea & special service + 2 other rotating group tours of the Art Gallery & The Chinese Museum; snack-type lunch at the Big Hill Vineyard + Annual Meeting; a dinner dance in your 'good clobber' at "Silks", a 3 course meal with a complimentary wine and all you 'young groovers' put on your 'pumps' to dance to music provided by a great local band 'The Impalas'. ("The caravan parkers won't have too far to roll home but they just might get lost!")

Sunday - Daylesford for morning tea & lunch at "Cricket Willow", cricket museum, antique barn & chocolate tasting ("Keep your credit cards in your pockets"); evening meal back at the Big Hill Vineyard in your appropriate "Gold & Old" casual clobber or whatever, relevant to the early days of Bendigo (e.g miner, trooper, mine-owner, landed-gentry, professional gentleman etc.) with music supplied by another local band "Where's Wally?" Unfortunately we could not get a Bush Band, as the only two Bendigo Bush Bands heard you were all coming to town, so they both have disbanded last December. Excuse the pun. Boom! Boom! and some good old Aussie Ballads etc being performed by club groups or whatever. So, come prepared for a good night of frivolity, the unknown and awards!

("Did Wyong say that they detect a hint of 'plagarism?' Stiff we say!")

Monday - Back at Quills Restaurant for the Rort's "Farewell Breakfast"

Post-Rort Program – 3rd May to 7th May

It will be great to have all Post-Rorters remain on in Bendigo for a further 5 days, to explore more of the central region of our State, and return each day back to your 'Bendigo Home away from Home'.

Post Rorters will be comforted with the knowledge that you will be accompanied by at least 8 - 12 Bendigo Apex 40 members for all of the 5 days. Bendigo Apex 40 Members just don't want anyone to get homesick, run out of tissues etc. or much worse still get up to mischief without them!

Monday:- Bendigo Tours of Talking Trams, Central Debrah Gold Mine and Bendigo Pottery – Australia's Oldest Pottery. A group lunch is being organised for Rorters at the Pottery Café (at your own expense). Dinner is at Bickley's Barn, which is finishing up as a dining venue after our visit.

Tuesday:- Trip to Ballarat, includes morning tea, Eureka Stockade Tour, Sovereign Hill Gold Town Tour, lunch (at own expense), Dinner and “Sound & Light Show”.

Wednesday:- Bendigo District–The Great Stupa Tour & morning tea, wine-tastings at Sandhurst Ridge Vineyard (founded by the four Greblo Bros in 1989) & Balgownie Estate (Bendigo’s most renowned winery. Established in 1969 by well-known & highly regarded wine-maker Stuart Anderson. Once owned by Foster’s Mildara Wines. Currently owned by the Forrester Family, with 30 hectares of vines, a cellar door, wine museum & café, in which we have organised a group lunch and tasting. Dinner at Lynne Vale Winery

Thursday:- Trip to Echuca. (Remember the T.V Series “All The Rivers Run”. It seems Bob Caldwell’s wife Annie still drools over the star of the series, John Waters.) Morning tea at the Beechworth Bakery (a small franchised chain of 3 Victorian country bakeries), National Holden Museum Tour & A One Hour Trip on the Paddle Steamer “Pride of the Murray”, lunch (at own expense), free-time, followed by a tour & dinner at the Great Aussie Beer Shed & Museum of Australian Memorabilia.

Friday:- Central Bendigo, Touring the new recently-built, modern headquarters of the Bendigo Bank (a real eye-opener), a guided tour of the Historical Precinct of Bendigo, and topped off with a Gillies Pie (a famous product of Bendigo) after walking through our famous Rosiland Park to the Bendigo Bowling Club. Free-time has been planned during the day and Bendigo Apex 40 is hosting a BBQ tea at the Caravan Park for all those remaining in Town on Friday Night. (Cost \$10.00). Don’t rush off in too much of a hurry, Bendigo wishes to farewell the Post-Rorters in ‘style’.

Many Thanks to the Three Bendigo Musketeers for the information:

Bob Caldwell (Chairman of the Organising Committee)

Kevin Harvey (Director of Program)

Ron Clarke (Director of Registration & Accommodation)

TWO GENTLE REMINDERS

- ***Total Monies For Registration Are Due By Feb 28th 2010***
- ***It Still May Not Be Too Late To Register, So Contact Ron Clarke***
Phone: (03) 54438290 or E/m: ronmeryl@tpg.com.au

XEPA – GREAT SOUTHEAST – Russell Moreton, President

The November 2009 BBQ Dinner and AGM saw Russell Morton re-elected as President and Mary Bach elected again as Secretary.



After the AGM some XEPA members stayed on for a BBQ and Fellowship

The New Year kicked off with a great night of barefoot bowls on January 15th at the Redland Bowling Club Greens at Victoria Point. After the pre bowls fellowship and drinks it was time get some serious instructions and bowling happening.

Dinner was served at half time followed by more talented bowling. At 9pm the lights on the greens were turned off and into the bar we all went for more fellowship.

It was great to see so many our members bringing along their young families to enjoy the atmosphere. The club president thanked us for coming along and payed particular comment on how many children came and how well behaved they all were.

REDLANDS – Bill & Val Cramp, Dinner Notice Editors

29 members gathered for brunch around the pool at Juri and Pauline's home on Sunday 18th October. Treasurer Ross reported we are in a comfortable financial position with funds in hand increasing slightly over the past year. Ray Despot took the chair for the election of our President for the next 12 months. Juri was elected unopposed. Juri assumed the chair for the nomination and election of other board members.

The Redland Club Board following were elected unopposed.

Vice President	Ray Despot
Secretary	Marion Pollock
Treasurer	Ross Pollock
Newsletter Editors	Bill and Val Cramp
Sergeant	Peter Greer

Our Christmas break up at the Grand View Hotel went off with much jolliment, and a big “Thank You” to Marion,, Val and Pauline for the Decorations that helped to set the mood for the night.

Our Sergeant’s Peter and Pauline started off our Apex 40 year in grand style and now that they have set the bench mark to such a high standard, I’m sure we can expect more of the same.

The Grand View Hotel will be the venue for the “Valentine’s Night” dinner meeting.

VALENTINES DAY TRIVIA (from Redland’s Club)

February 15th was the date of the Roman festival of Lupercalia – where young men held a lottery to decide which girl would be theirs.

During Medieval times, girls ate unusual foods on St. Valentine’s Day to have a dream of their future husband.

In the middle of the 17th century even married people took a Valentine – not always their legal other half!

Alexander Graham Bell applied for his patent on the telephone, on the Valentine’s Day, 1876.

In Wales, love spoons of wood were carved and given as gifts on February 14th. Hearts, keys and keyholes formed the favourite theme of decorations on the spoons, which together symbolized – “You unlock my heart!”

It wasn’t until 1537 that St. Valentine’s Day was declared an official holiday. England’s King Henry VIII declared February 14th a holiday in 1537 for the first time.

On February 14, 1779, the natives of Hawaii murdered Captain James Cook the great English explorer and navigator.

Captain Cook was never very Big on Valentine’s Day after that.

DEVONPORT – Pamela Richardson,

They say a Picture is worth a thousand words – The picture came with very few words so the rest of the text is left to your imagination.



Rob Beveridge calling the Ferret Race at the Henley on Mersey at Latrobe on Australia Day

Editor's Note:

Our bet is that this is the first Rob has seen of this picture. Not very many people in Queensland would hazard a guess at what a ferret is and half of them would have it wrong anyway.

It appears Devonport would have had 100% attendance at their Christmas Function excepting for one couple who were unable to locate the venue. Don't know whose fault it was? – His, Hers, the Clubs, the Instructions, the Communications or the Navigational Aids.

SUNRAYZIA – Elaine Gray, President

Seventeen members enjoyed the Pizza Night in July.

The Christmas Party/Apex Reunion was held at the Vines Community Function Centre in Mildura. Instead of the usual giving of gifts our members donated \$5 to the Sunraysia Cancer Support Centre.

ALSTONVILLE – Duncan & Prue Walker, February President

The Iwok Restaurant which serves Chinese/Asian cuisine was the venue for the February function. A banquet meal was chosen for members to enjoy. The Iwok is attached to the Headland Resort at Lennox Head.

GEELONG – John Van Galen, President

Our October speaker Lindsay Smail proved to have some very interesting data about Geelong's climate. He also spoke about the controversial topic of Global Warming and what may or may not be causing it. Whether you agreed with his views or not, it was certainly a topic of great interest to us all. It's a pity I could not get Al Gore to present the opposing view! (If you would like to see some other simple facts on this topic, the National Geographic website is a good place to start)

Wayne Casey from Barwon Mental Health, was the guest speaker for the November meeting. He provided us with some thought-provoking information. About 20% of the population will have some sort of mental health issues, and the importance of a good night's sleep, to name just a few points which he made. He was a very good sport for managing without the overhead projector I thought we could provide for him..

To welcome the Christmas season and providing some amusement on the night a Christmas trivia quiz was organised for the December meeting.

NEPEAN VALLEY – Ken Wright, Dinner Notice Editor

The Zone 9 Reunion was held on 16 – 18 October at Bathurst Goldfields Function Centre, Conrod Straight, Bathurst. It was another great weekend of Apex fellowship with 80 past Zone Nine members and partners in attendance. The venue, accommodation and food were just terrific and everybody had a great time – they are looking forward to the next reunion!

A full weekend of fellowship and lots of Apex stories to tell. We hope to see you at the next one possibly in 2011. The happy hour of "half price" drinks on both Friday and Saturday night went over a treat.

Ken Wright did yet another superb job with the production of a Zone 9 Video as well as giving Keith all the necessary technical and electrical support.

At the Bathurst Zone 9 Reunion Janice Wright competed in the "Zone 9 Public Speaking Repechage. Janice spoke about "Grandparents" and the problems with caring for Grandchildren. Janice won the contest and was duly presented with a bottle of wine.

Barry Leavett-Brown and Keith Miller attended a luncheon on 9th October 2009 hosted by The Apex Foundation to raise funds for another

Apex Foundation Trust “Celebrating Youth Destiny” – at Sydney Parliament House.

Congratulations to Joyce Leavett-Brown who along with 23 others were recently installed on the Penrith 2009 Wall of Achievement Awards for her community involvement. The Penrith community has benefited by the voluntary work Joyce has provided over 30 years.

We have been advising the ladies of the Crest Club of the Blue Mountains – a women’s community service organisation founded by Apex Australia in approximately 1988 as they look at the option of changing over to Apex 40 Australia. We are proud to announce that the girls of Crest Blue Mountains (which includes Bronwyn Berriman, Ann McGill (& Kerry); Margaret Webb (& John) will be having their formal Apex 40 junction on 21st February 2010. Congratulations and welcome back to Apex 40 – we hope that we can share some social functions in the coming months/years.

We were very saddened to learn that our very dear friend and inaugural Secretary/Treasurer of Penrith Apex 40, Neil Williamson, passed away suddenly on Saturday 21st November 2009, after a long battle with the “big C”. A large contingent of past Penrith Apexians attended the funeral, and it was nice to catch up with them. Hoo Roo Mate – we will certainly miss you.

KELAB – Kuala Lumpur S.Vengadesan Naiker

I wish all members and friends of Club Apex 40 of Kuala Lumpur a belated Merry Christmas, Happy New Year 2010 and a Happy Chinese New Year.

Time does not wait for anyone, it just ticks away regardless of whatever happens to the individual or to the whole world.

Among prominent philosophers, there are two distinct viewpoints on time. One view is that time is part of the fundamental structure of the universe, a dimension in which events occur in sequence. Time travel, in this view, becomes a possibility as other “times” persist like frames of a film strip, spread out across the time line.

Our club has never failed the members in its obligations in social activities and fellowship. The February social meeting will be a wonderful 8 course Chinese cuisine followed by Malaysian champagne which some may find the fragrance repulsive but is sweet and gives a good kick in the...

The 28th Annual General Meeting will be held on 25th February at the Petaling Jaya Club. We have always emphasized that this club is about social and Apex 40 gave us the opportunity for this continuing friendship.

Friends are the family that we choose for ourselves.

WYNNUM/MANLY – Col Ramsay, President

Our “Great Gastronomical Getaway” to Toowoomba in October was such a wonderful overnight trip. We were blessed with fine and mild weather, a safe bus trip, thanks to Col’s driving, and excellent food and company.

Our morning tea stop at the Apex Park at Gatton was a pleasant break and everyone seemed to enjoy the yummy food. Special thanks go to those ladies who helped Phyl organise it: Denice, Diane, Jill and Melda. Thanks also to Col and the men who assisted him in getting the hot water ready.

Peter and Jill Lampard joined us when we reached Toowoomba, and led the way to Preston Peak Winery for lunch and “tastings and buyings”. After that we had a wander around Preston Peak Manor and the Chapel there, and then saw some wonderful scenery at a nearby lookout. Some of us did manage to catnap before meeting for drinks and a lovely dinner in the restaurant where we were staying at the Grammar View Motel.



Thelma and Charlie Bowman – Thelma is sporting ‘New Legs’ and looks fit as a fiddle.

Next morning we left and visited a fascinating display garden at the Martin's residence, and then on to Laurel Bank Gardens to see the colourful "Bloomin' Flower Beds" there!! A very BIG thankyou goes to Peter and Jill who, at extremely short notice, provided us all with a superb BBQ luncheon at their home. More great food and socialising which definitely topped off a fantastic weekend!

We did manage a short stop at Warrego Winery for coffee and/or tastings, for those who could squeeze anything more in. We arrived back at the Nunn's around 5.30pm. Thankyou Peg and Eddie for letting us leave our vehicles at your home. Also accept our appreciation for storing the bus on Sunday night. Thanks also to Des who was our backup driver, if needed, for the trip.

The ten pin bowling get-together turned out to be a matter of Bowl, Hit (the gutter usually) and Giggle!!. We went for a fish and chips lunch afterwards, as with all the strenuous exercise, we needed some well deserved sustenance! A good time was apparent with a few awards handed out at the Christmas function.



Col Ramsay Presenting Bruce Garland with his OBE and Poetry Awards.

In true Christmas spirit the end of year Christmas function was held at the home of Des and Denice Clements. Santa arrived during pre dinner drinks and nibbles to distribute his assortment of gifts ranging from honey, mugs, nuts and the ever rebounding book on sex. (It appears the current owner may add a chapter). A great night of fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all who attended. The delicious Christmas spread is a credit to the ladies and the organisers.

Vale: Nepean Valley advised of the passing of fellow club member, Neil Williamson. Below is a summary of Neil's career in Apex and Apex 40.

Joined Ryde Apex Club (Zone 10) 1977 approx.

Moved to Mt Druitt approx 1980 and joined Mt Druitt Apex

Past Club President Mt Druitt Apex

Retired from Apex (Aged 40) approx 1988/89

2001 – Inaugural Secretary/Treasurer Nepean Valley Apex 40.

Editorial

This will be our last Roaring 40 Magazine and we feel it important others in the organisation be given a chance to fill the role.

Producing the Roaring 40 Magazine has been a most rewarding job. Keeping in contact with the many contributors who helped us fill the pages with their reports made us feel an important part of the greater family. We also enjoyed receiving interesting snippets from individual members.

Through the magazine we developed closer ties with many clubs and their members both locally and overseas. Luckily for us most of you have a great sense of humour. The many emails, phone calls, faxes and visits we have received from fellow Apex 40 members and the members of our sister clubs from around the world were also most appreciated.

The compliments and criticisms were well received. Luckily the positives far outweighed the negatives. We managed to suffer the ire of a reader of one of our early editions. On the positive side, at least we knew the articles were being read and getting a reaction.

We phoned Brian Roach recently to check that his 'Gold Phone' was still working. One becomes worried when Brian does not ring.

Congratulations to Bruce Garland on achieving his 80th Birthday. There are a growing number of members joining the Apex 80's Club.

Thanks to the Webmasters, Alan Padgham initially and Keith Haddon recently for keeping in close contact and trading information as it came to hand.

Some of our better known members, including Alan Kinder, Bev Foss, Alan Padgham and Keith Haddon have had some medical setbacks recently. We trust that they are progressing well and hope to see them all in Bendigo.

How could we resist not revisiting the Australia Day Function at Latrobe in Tasmania? The Ferret Chocolate Wheel was something of which we had never seen before. The mind boggles as to its operation. No explanation – Just the Picture with Rob Beveridge at the Microphone.



It appears many of our readers are sceptics about Climate Change and Global Warming – One of our non-sceptics sent us a photo containing absolute scientific proof that Global Warming is Real:



*Thanks again to all of the contributors:
All the Best, Mary and Alan*

Get your News in the Next Issue Of Roaring 40's

Branches are invited and urged to forward news and photos of branch activities and other items of interest for publication in the next issue of the "Roaring 40's". Let's have photographs and news of branch functions so we can see what you look like, and what you get up to

Please forward material to
Mary & Alan Bach
P.O. Box 1344 Capalaba Qld 4157
Tel: 07 3823 2648 Email: bachelec@bigpond.net.au
THE NEXT DEADLINE IS
31st May 2010

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Sandy Harmer
155 Bellevue Road
Tumbi Umbi NSW 2261
Tel: 02 4385 7375

CAR STICKERS – Cost \$1.00

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