

The

APEXIAN



Issue

50



GYMPIE MUSIC MUSTER

"Apex Australia attended the Gympie Muster again this year, but they key level-up for us was the marketing and recruitment marquee...We had a ripping time and I encourage you all to attend"



CAMBODIA OWP24

NEWEST LIFE MEMBERS



MIKE FITZE



PETER GRAY



JULIAN WILLOUGHBY



KUNUNURRA CHAMPION SAUSAGE



President's Note

BEN CURNOW



Greetings all,

As I follow many of our club social media pages, I am truly grateful to all Apexian's for their service to the community. It's a simple thing really, but giving people time is precious and makes a huge difference. Thank you all for the great work you do under the Apex banner. My message in the previous two Apexian Magazines were around advertising. I encourage you all to reflect on the ways you do this well and perhaps add one or two extra ideas in the way of spreading your message. A special thanks to the Goondiwindi Apex Club for the fantastic Facebook posts I see geared toward recruitment. I encourage everyone to follow that club and see what's happening.

Many great things have occurred in the world of Apex since the last time we published. A group of us attended the Philippines National Convention, spending a week in Boracay. A marvellous experience in paradise that involved all of the fellowship enjoyed by many Apex nations. In other International news, I wish to commend those who attended the Cambodia Work Party in July/Aug. A massive success partnering with Teacher in a Box. Many Apexians kicked on to the Singapore Apex Convention and were shown a great time. Malaysia also hosted their convention which was attended by a few of our life members. Overall, Apex Australia has had excellent representation internationally so far this year.

In my own travels, I personally attended the Apex 40's Rort for a few days, held up at Apex Camps Mudjimba. I had a chance to speak to the many Apex 40's members and formed several great connections. In the past few years, Apex Australia has re-connected and strengthened our working relationships with all of it's Apex affiliates and all of us have been better for it. I addressed the Rort AGM directly and spoke about the state of Apex currently, in which everyone was encouraged by. Thanks to outgoing President Mark Tramby and incoming President Col Gifford for allowing me the time to get involved. If you are retiring or retired from Apex, consider joining Apex 40's. A great outfit.

We also worked with some federal members of parliament to celebrate volunteer week. This has led to the potential re-birth of the Maryborough Victoria Apex Club. It is well worth forming relationships with all forms of government in your area, as aggressive citizenship requires strong relationships with key stakeholders. Let's not be afraid to make these elected officials transform and grow our local communities. Be a person of influence within Australia!

Apex Australia attended the Gympie Muster again this year, but the key level-up for us was the marketing and recruitment marquee. A joint funded project with Apex Foundation, the marquee saw us sell some merch, take donations and most importantly spread the message of Apex. We had quite a few people register their details and interest in joining a club, so the board have some work to do post Muster. We also had a ripping time and I encourage you to attend.

We've had two new Life Members since March. Peter Gray from the Apex Club of Goondiwindi and Jullian Willoughby from the Apex Club of Ulverstone. Congratulations to you both. Based on the applications and the letters of support, very well earned and deserved.

As always, my message is clear: Don't waste the opportunity you have been given by being in Apex. Take full advantage and contribute to communities beyond what you ever thought was possible. Don't wait! THE TIME IS NOW!

Ben Curnow, National President



VICTORIAN WESTERN REGION CATCH UP



Big things are happening down in Victoria. For the first time in over a decade, clubs got together to have a regional catch up. On the second weekend in September, representatives from 5 clubs descended on Grampians Park Station in Moyston Victoria, at the foothills of the Grampians. Hosted by Beaufort Apex Club, members from Ballarat, Cobram-Barooga, Stawell and Warracknabeal joined together for a fantastic weekend of Fellowship and Service.

Friday night saw everyone arrive and hang out by the bonfire. It was a late night with certain people seeing 3am. Many problems were solved over a glass and jokes told. Up early on Saturday, cooked breaky and into a day of fun. Groups split off to do paintball, or field and game clay shooting. All activities held had a little element of competition, with many laughs and memories made. Most people brought their families and we had loads of fun. Then up all night partying until late in the evening. Special thanks to Princess and Gunnadoo for the midnight snack of BBQ Dim Sims. Also appreciate the fitness tip of Creatine.

Sunday morning saw a big clean up from a night well had, the after breaky and a surprise coffee van, several chainsaws descended into the bush to cut approximately 20 cubic meters of firewood. The firewood was taken back to the Beaufort Apex Club where it will be donated to bush fire affected residents of our February fires. Our aim is to help replenish stock piles well into the future.

I would like to commend and thank RC9 Tim Glenton for making this possible. It's fantastic to see your vision and hard work pay off. The real gift in the weekend was opening the eyes of clubs as to what Apex in its entirety has to offer. Victoria Apex is experiencing a resurgence and you my friend are a large part in that. Well done.

Ben Curnow, National President





CAMBODIA - OVERSEAS WORK PARTY

Transforming Education in Cambodia

At the end of July and early August 2024, Apex Australia embarked on an impactful journey to Cambodia, spearheading a pivotal educational initiative through the “Teacher In A Box” program. This initiative saw the deployment of 104 tablets and 11 server units across 11 schools in Siem Reap, enabling over 500 children to access a wealth of educational resources offline.

Empowering Education with Technology

“Teacher In A Box” serves as a digital library loaded onto servers that broadcast educational content to nearby devices via a local Wi-Fi network created by the server itself. This technology allows students in remote or underserved areas to access educational materials similar to those available online, without the need for internet connectivity. The content ranges from textbooks and interactive learning modules to educational videos, all tailored to enhance the learning experience and improve educational outcomes.

Sustainable Impact

The initiative was made possible through our collaboration with Ripple Effect Rides and local NGOs, ensuring the project was not only about installation but also about sustainable integration into the educational practices of the communities. The project’s sustainability is further secured as local educators receive ongoing training to effectively use and maintain these digital libraries.





CAMBODIA - OVERSEAS WORK PARTY

Gratitude and Acknowledgements

I extend heartfelt thanks to Marco from Ripple Effect Rides and his team Sochea and Sreyny plus all Apex volunteers who dedicated their time and effort. The success of this project is a testament to their commitment and passion for making a difference. Of course, this would not have come around without the generous bequest in a will what a wonderful lasting impact this has had.

Looking Ahead

With the 2024 project leaving a lasting imprint on the communities we've touched, we are energized to continue this journey. Plans are already underway for the 2025 Overseas Work Party in Malaysia, promising to expand our impact and continue bridging educational gaps wherever there is a need.

Apex members, your support and involvement are crucial to sustaining and expanding our efforts. We look forward to more adventures as we carry this mission forward, united in service and fellowship.

Greg Youngberry, Bursary Manager

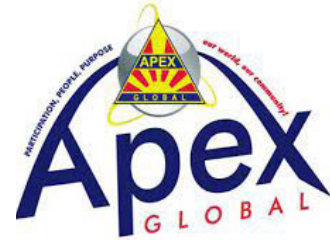


APEX GLOBAL CHAIR

Apex Australia is proud to announce Simon Grant as the Apex Global Chair for the incoming year.

We would like to thank Gurmeet from Apex India for his service as Global Chair for the past 12 months.

Please join us in Congratulating Simon!



GYMPIE MUSIC MUSTER

Clubs from across Australia came together to volunteer at the Gympie Music Muster, taking on roles such as bar work, soft security, money exchange, and running the merchandise tent.

Apex members also manned the Apex Australia Information Tent, which was a joint initiative with the Apex Foundation aimed at boosting our marketing and recruitment efforts. We sold Apex merchandise, collected donations, and most importantly, shared the message of Apex Australia with the thousands of festival-goers, spreading awareness about our mission and encouraging new members to join our association.



MURGON CASINO NIGHT

On the 3rd August 2024 Murgon Apex held there second annual Casino night at the Murgon RSL. The night was well attended by many in the community. Guest were sent back in time coming dressed as Gangsters and Flappers.

The Murgon community and business got behind the event by sponsoring all ten gaming tables. Guest were given \$5000 each at the start of the night and played the night away. For fun at the end of the night the top three high roles were showcased. Continues raffle ran though the evening with many happy wins.

Cocktail food and the drinks made the night full of laugh's and happy memories.



APEX TRAVELLING HAMMER

After a brief stint in SA after the National Convention in WA. The Hammer visited Beaufort Apex Club, The Magic Castle Work Party, Albury Apex Club Sausagefest. It was last seen leaving the Angler's Arms Hotel in Southport QLD...





COMBRAM BAROOGA WINTER BALL



Back in August Cobram-Barooga Apex Club successfully ran their inaugural Winter Ball at the local Italian Social Club. It was a complete sell out with 170 tickets being sold and every seat occupied, with the ladies dressing to the 10s and the blokes looking very dapper for a fantastic night of dancing and merriment.

The night was a black-tie event with a fantastic band, Masters of the Tuniverse, featuring a silent raffle and a hilarious photo booth that was a huge hit! The community got behind it and many businesses bought a whole table for employees or associates which made for a great night of mingling and meeting people you may not have otherwise. The festivities went long into the night and after the event was closed the party continued onto the Cobram-Barooga Clubhouse.



The Ball was also for a great cause as Cobram-Barooga Apex Club has just partnered with YAL (Young Australia League) to deliver a tertiary scholarship to a young individual in their region who without it would not be able to follow their aspirations. The scholarship is worth \$8,000 and through YAL has ongoing support to help them into their careers. There is also a bonus if they complete their studies and return to the area. The club believes that this is a great initiative to encourage young people to shoot for the stars but also feel that they can come back and make a difference in their community.



The community response after the event has been extremely positive and they are really keen for it to be run again so the aim will be to run a potential winter and a summer ball, with another cause to tied into the second event. Giving the community a reason to get dressed up and have a great night is directly in line with what Apex is all about. A huge thanks goes out to all the members and partners who put in a massive amount of effort to make the night such a success.

Events like these are the lifeblood of Apex and keeps a club relevant in their community, helping to entice new members and providing a valuable service, even if its something as small as letting off some steam.

APEX FOUNDATION



Your Apex Foundation has had another busy and successful year, with \$165,000 in grants made, taking all time grants to well over \$10 million. In addition, accommodation at our three facilities has provided many happy holidays worth several hundreds of thousands of dollars this year.

\$88,000 of grants were distributed to 'people in need' and various community projects from the Family Care Trust. A special mention goes to the many Apex Clubs that applied to the Foundation for grants on behalf of those in need in their communities. Apex Clubs are reminded that your Foundation can provide funding for certain community projects and are encouraged to contact us. Please refer to our website for details.

Additionally, \$5,000 was allocated to fine arts programs, reflecting the Foundation's commitment to cultural enrichment. These achievements underscore the Foundation's dedication to supporting communities across Australia.

The Apex Foundation Public Ancillary Fund continues its commitment to causes such as Children's Cancer and Melanoma, providing over \$70,000 in grants this year to registered charities. Key donations include a further \$25,000 to the Children's Cancer Institute, \$7,500 to Bloomhill Cancer Care, and \$15,000 to Melanoma Patients Australia. Support also extended to mental health initiatives, with White Cloud a beneficiary of \$3,025 for training volunteers, and \$10,000 granted to Dementia Australia for workshops in rural areas. Apex Clubs are encouraged to submit ideas for future grants, as the Foundation remains eager to support charities that are really making a difference in their communities.

The SHACK, a sanctuary for families with chronically ill or disabled children since 1992, is undergoing significant upgrades to enhance guest comfort. Located near Seven Mile Beach, the facility features new beds, curtains, and refurbished floors across its six units. New caretakers have joined to maintain the property and assist visitors, ensuring a supportive environment. The SHACK remains a vital retreat, offering families a peaceful, stress-free stay close to nature.

Apex Copper Coast Retreats in Wallaroo, established by several Apex Clubs, offers free holiday accommodation to families battling cancer. Partnered with Cancer Council SA, these five cabins are heavily utilized, providing a much-needed respite for families during or after treatment. Located near the beach, the retreats aim to create positive memories and alleviate the burdens of cancer, both physical and emotional.

Since 1979, the Magic Castle Chalet, located near Mt Kosciuszko, has been a 24-bed retreat for underprivileged and chronically ill children and their families. In celebration of its 45th anniversary, the Chalet is receiving new double-glazed windows and doors this October, enhancing the warmth and comfort of the facility. Bookings are welcomed, as the Chalet continues its mission of providing a safe and welcoming environment.

The Apex Foundation remains deeply committed to community projects, reflecting its rich history of supporting diverse causes. From sending students to youth mental health forums in Western Australia to collecting donations for working dogs on bushfire-affected farms in Eununda, the Foundation embraces initiatives both large and small. Apex Clubs are reminded that funds are available for projects, reinforcing the Foundation's dedication to fostering positive community impact across Australia.



APEX OUTBACK POSTIE BIKE RIDE

The 2024 Apex Outback Postie Bike Ride was a resounding success. This year's event took participants through some of South Australia's Gawler Ranges showcasing stunning and rugged landscapes, offering an unforgettable experience for both riders and support crew.

The ride kicked off from Port Augusta with riders navigating through dirt roads and rugged trails. The journey included stops at Uno Station, Buckleboo Station, Kimba, and Wudinna, providing riders with opportunities to engage with local communities and enjoy the breathtaking scenery all whilst trying to keep on their postie. The Gawler Ranges, known for their ancient rock formations and diverse wildlife, served as a stunning backdrop for this year's ride.

Andrew Venning of Kadina Apex Club took the honour of the 2024 highest fundraiser, raising an astonishing \$10,700. Well done Andrew!

We sincerely thank everyone who contributed their time and effort to make this event truly remarkable. A special shoutout to Andrew "Flatty" Keller and Michael Kemp for designing another fantastic track. We also want to recognise Michael for his extra efforts in ensuring the track's safety and facilitating access for backup vehicles.

To our 15 new riders, we hope you enjoyed the experience as much as we do, and a heartfelt thank you to the 53 returning riders.

We're amazed by this year's fundraising total, which has now reached an incredible \$111,840 supporting the Apex Copper Coast Retreats, and Cancer Council SA. Thank you to everyone who donated for your generosity.

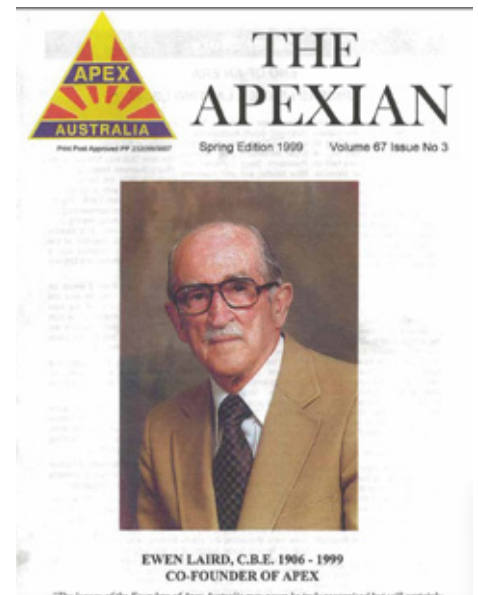
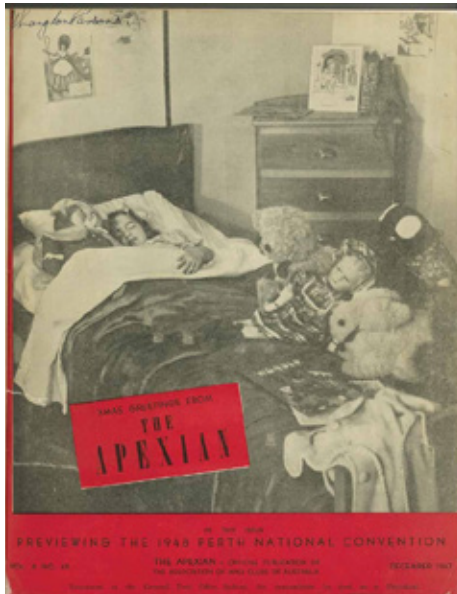
With this year's contributions, the total funds raised over the past 18 years have surpassed an impressive 1.75 million.

A huge thanks to First Care Medical for their sponsorship, particularly to Matt Callaway and Paul Vinar, who provided excellent care to our injured riders. Unfortunately, they had their hands full this year, but we're pleased to report that all injured riders are on the road to recovery. We extend our best wishes to them all.





THE APEXIAN FROM THE ARCHIVES





MILTON ULLADULLA APEX CLUB - MUCK UP



Starting in May 2023, the Apex Club of Milton Ulladulla, acting in support of our local teenage 'A to Z Group' (who promote diversity and inclusion within Ulladulla High School) have embarked on what we have coined the **MUCK Up** initiative – inspired by the nation-wide “Do It For Dolly” campaign targeting bullying through the promotion of positive social interactions.

The main strand of this has been the commitment that MUCK Up will help to promote inclusion and kindness across our community through the running of various “community kindness” events across 2024 and beyond. These have included events around sports, food, arts and culture where locals can be shown first hand just how wonderful it can be to interact with one another in a positive way.

Escape Room and Family Fun Day - we have formed a junior committee of year 7 aged students to help us plan and deliver certain events aimed toward improving social interactions within that age group. The first of these was to hire a mobile escape room and arrange a family fun day which saw over 100 kids come through with families on the day to work together on the escape room and partake in the fun activities we had set up including the paper airplane competition shown here

Kayaking - the funding received from Apex Foundation was critical toward this in particular and was an event which saw the formation of our junior committee who took on Apexians (and our local state member Liza Butler) in a survivor style kayaking challenge on the waters of Mossy Point - sadly the kids won but a great day was had by all and the junior committee was formed as a result.

Do It For Dolly Round - Held a 'blue' round to mark “Do It For Dolly” Day 2024 - won by the local Netball club who got right behind the initiative and were awarded \$500 for their presentation day

Chorus for Kindness: Do It For Dolly Day - on “Do It For Dolly” day itself we held our second “Chorus for Kindness” fundraiser - a pub choir style event where we sang “That’s Freedom” together and raised \$1000 for Dolly’s Dream and a further \$2500 toward the MUCK Up initiative

Cooking Up Kindness - Local chefs paired with teams of youth on a MasterChef style challenge cooking from a mystery box of ingredients prepared by local Apexian and chef Jonny Staples from Citrus Catering



Mural - On the same day as Cooking Up Kindness was completed we unveiled our butterfly mural (inspired by Dolly's Dream) which is located directly across from the Ulladulla High School entrance with the message of #choosekindness and the local Apex logo proudly displayed

Singer / Songwriter Workshop and Showcase - our most ambitious project of all was to bring together youth aged 12-18 to create and perform original songs at our local Milton Theatre across a weekend led by professional musicians/mentors.

We wanted to pass on how successful the initiative has been and how crucial the support of Apex Foundation and the organisation as a whole has been toward our success thus far.

Apex Club of Milton Ulladulla



KUNUNURRA CHAMPION SAUSAGE



Congratulations to the 'Apex Meat Mavericks' from the Apex Club of Kununurra for being crowned the Winners of the Champion Sausage at the Taste of Kimberley event.

DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that the Apex badges used to be triangles? Take a look!



NEWEST APEXIANS



Apex Club of Geraldton, WA



Apex Club of Katanning, WA

SOUTH TOOWOOMBA CELEBRATES 60 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

The Apex Club of South Toowoomba recently celebrated 60 Years of Service to the Toowoomba Community.

The Club celebrated with fellow Apexians from far and wide at their Annual Changeover at the Toowoomba Sports Club.

The evening also saw the retirement of Past National President and Life Member, Moses Abraham.

Congratulations to Sarah Wood for being awarded the South Toowoomba Apex Club, Apexian of the Year



APEX MINI BIO - APRIL LANCASTER-SMITH

Year Joined Apex and which Club?

2009 - South Toowoomba

Favourite Apex Project/Event you have been involved in?

2023 Overseas Work Party to the Philippines to build the Atisan Day Care Centre.

What are you currently reading?

It Starts With Us - Colleen Hoover

What do you like to do in your spare time?

Play indoor and outdoor cricket and play video games.

If you could give new Apexians one piece of advice would it be?

Say yes to every opportunity you can within Apex. You won't regret it. (but don't accept piggy backs from any Apexian. EVER! you will regret that one)





REGION 4 UPDATE - BRETTT DOIG

The past few months I have been travelling a lot around my district.

I've attended a number of change over's, service events and dinner meetings.

I can say attending a dinner meeting up at Maleny on a rainy night reminds me of Toowoomba with thick fog coming down the hill. At this meeting there was an organisation looking for funds to set up an All Men's service in the way of suicide prevention and stress management. The Maleny Club is looking at helping in the way of funds paying for workmen-ship to help build the centre and talking to others to help purchase stuff for the Centre

I have travelled to Nambour Apex club a number of times to help with service events as this club need a lot of helping hands from other organisations to help run their events. This Club raised over \$80,000 in the past 4 events and some events are only 2 to 3 weeks from the other. Getting ready for running back to back can be very exhausting making sure everything is ready as they cater for a number of events.

Southport has been looking at a school event in the way of a scholarship, something like the proposal from Toowoomba Club. This Club has been looking at other events.

We have had a visit from National Board President Ben and Communications Daniel in June.

I set up a meeting for National President Ben and National Communications Daniel to speak to Lismore Mayor in regards to starting a new Apex Club.

I have also made contact with the federal member of Lismore and more to come in regards to getting a club In Lismore.

In regards to Caboolture Club it has been busy getting everything ready for the Gympie Mustar and this event raises a lot of funds for their club.

I did catch up with them in Gympie and they were working very hard and pulled in a number of volunteers to help them.

Brisbane City, Southport, Maleny have had their changeover and with Southport having their changeover in September.

With the National Convention a number of Clubs and members are attending the convention, in saying that I will be hoping for members will be signing up to go to National Convention

Brett Doig, RC4



APEX KUNUNURRA - BARRA BASH

STATE RECORD SMASHED AGAIN BY BARRA BASH WITH 1,400+ ANGLERS AND EPIC CATCHES!

For the second year running, this weekend's Apex Kununurra Barra Bash has smashed the State record for most entrants in a fishing competition with 1,412 anglers registering for the popular community fundraising angling extravaganza!

The East Kimberley competition has gone from strength to strength in recent years attracting all ages (more than 300 juniors), genders, backgrounds and fishing abilities with anglers coming from as far as Tasmania to participate!

And despite high tides and the odd tropical downpour, the fishing did not disappoint with 393 barra entered – five of which were over the magic metre mark – with the biggest fish caught by Ben Quinlivan measuring in at a hefty 1.085m.

The comp, supported by a Recfishwest community grant, also had 207 catfish entered – one measuring 1.1m falling to Kelly Ejai – along with 136 sooty grunter.

IF YOU WANT TO GET AMONGST THE EPIC FISHING THE EAST KIMBERLEY HAS TO OFFER – MAKE A PLAN TO VISIT KUNUNURRA FOR THE BARRA BASH IN SEPTEMBER 2025



Ben Quinlivan's winning brilliant barra



The awards ceremony was filled with excitement as local lad Harry Flatt won the 4.18m Seajay Creek Masta with a 30HP Suzuki engine, while Susan Swan claimed a luxury three-night stay at Kimberley Coastal Camp for the mystery barra prize. A Quadbike and other great prizes added to the draw, with the modest entry fee of \$60 for seniors and free for juniors, making it a hit for fishing families.

Organiser Aaron Macnamara credited the event's success to the high-quality competition and fantastic fishing on offer. "We're thrilled to have smashed the record with 300 more entrants this year," he said. "It's become a destination event with participants from across the country including Broome and the NT and as far away as Tassie. The Lower Ord and the lake are fishing brilliantly, offering plenty of great, accessible spots for anglers."

"It's a really great event for the town and we've got to thank our incredible sponsors. As our main fundraiser for the year, the event growth has meant we've been able to donate more than \$75,000 to the community over the last couple of years from the proceeds of entry fees, shirt and food sales – so it's a win-win-win for everyone."

Recfishwest CEO Dr Andrew Rowland praised the Apex team for their efforts, highlighting the event's role in supporting regional communities and the benefits of the long-running barra stocking program in Kununurra. "The Barra Bash keeps getting better and shows how vital fishing is to Kununurra. Long may it continue!"

Article and images courtesy of Recfishwest & Apex Club of Kununurra



'Get to Lake Coobey
Shore in 2024'



**2024
NATIONAL
CONVENTION
REGISTRATIONS
NOW CLOSED**

10-13 OCTOBER 2024

REFLECTIONS LAKE COOBY

HOSTED BY

APEX CLUB OF SOUTH TOOWOOMBA

www.apex.org.au | www.apexconvention.com.au



Convention Program

DAY	ACTIVITY	LOCATION
Thursday	National Board Meeting Social Dinner*	Comfort Inn Grammar View Cobb+Co Museum
Friday	RC Training <i>Transport to Reflections Lake Cooby</i> Lunch Social Tour* Social Dinner - Op Shop Glam Theme	Comfort Inn Grammar View Dining Hall Monty Brewing Co BBQ Area/Lawn
Saturday	Breakfast AGM Non-Delegates Tour* Lunch Social Tour* Afternoon Activities (High Ropes / Canoeing)* Gala Dinner - Masquerade	Dining Hall Conference Room Toowoomba Dining Hall Pechey Distilling Co. Lake Cooby Lakeside Marquee
Sunday	Breakfast Service Work - Highfields Scouts	Dining Hall Highfields

Note: Convention registration covers from Friday lunch - Sunday breakfast only

*Open to everyone. Costs not included in convention registration





BUILDING BETTER COMMUNITIES

The Ideals of the Association of Apex Clubs

To make the ideals of service the basis of all enterprise.

To develop by example a more intelligent and aggressive citizenship.

To provide a means of forming enduring friendships, rendering altruistic service and building better communities.

To promote international understanding and friendship.