



# 2011-2012 Annual Report

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## 2012 APEX AUSTRALIA ANNUAL REPORT

<b>2011/2012 NATIONAL BOARD</b>	
<b>NATIONAL PRESIDENT</b>	Chris Morahan
<b>NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT</b>	Matthew Peck
<b>NATIONAL SECRETARY</b>	Craig Maher
<b>NATIONAL TREASURER</b>	Erin Murphy
<b>DIRECTOR OF COMMITTEES</b>	Chris Morahan
<b>VICTORIAN STATE PRESIDENT</b>	Darren Howe
<b>QUEENSLAND STATE PRESIDENT</b>	Tomas Guerin
<b>NSW / ACT STATE PRESIDENT</b>	Graeme Whiting
<b>TASMANIAN STATE PRESIDENT</b>	Royce Webster
<b>WA STATE PRESIDENT</b>	Matthew Peck
<b>SA / NT STATE PRESIDENT</b>	Ben Chambers

<b>2011/2012 NATIONAL MANAGERS</b>	
<b>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b>	Kate Huth
<b>AATFA</b>	Jeff Hardie
<b>APEX FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN</b>	Jim Hughes AM

## FOUNDERS

**Sir John Buchan - [Deceased] - Ewen Laird - [Deceased] - Langham Proud - [Deceased]**

## 2011/2011 ANNUAL NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### CHRIS MORAHAN



#### Year in Review

The Association of Apex Clubs of Australia is an unusual beast. It is an iconic part of the Australian community with a proud history, a strong legacy and Alumni that many groups would be proud of. It is also struggling to find its way in a society that has changed quite significantly in the eighty-one years since our Founders saw a need in the community and Apex was born. To be given the opportunity and responsibility to be the National President of the Association is a bittersweet experience, an experience it appears, will continue for a little while yet.

At the beginning of my term I expressed that, "what Apex needed from me was to face up to our really big challenges, to confront our problems, to take difficult decisions and to lead people through those difficult decisions so that together we can reach better times ahead". This year has seen us take some very difficult

decisions, with some still to be made at the upcoming AGM. The biggest challenge I have found during the year however is not in managing costs or the staff or change, the biggest challenge in our Association is to engage and motivate the clubs. As I said in my opening line, the Association is an unusual beast, it is a beast that cannot be tamed or dictated to but one which needs to be coaxed, lead and motivated into the whole Apex experience.

The year started off in a great way, with the club agreeing to the Duke of Ed partnership and a great team of dedicated Apexians keen to progress the changes that were needed. Unfortunately at the end of October things took an unusual turn, National Vice-President Cameron Page was forced to resign to deal with urgent family problems, causing some panic in my mind, as he was the principal person working on both the new training package and the restructure. Three days after this, my own mother passed away, which did not put me in the right frame of mind to motivate my team and deal with the issues around the NVP resignation.

We did recover however and at the January National Board meeting, we signed an MOU with Navy Cadets and mapped out a process for the Duke of Ed project. WA State President stepped in as acting NVP and Kate Huth stepped up to continue the work on the restructure.

During April and May I attended a number of State conventions and meetings, all of which endorsed the restructure process and all of which were looking to the future and making relevant plans. The Lions and Apex 40s conventions which I attended were also held in May. The principle message I keep pushing with these groups is to remember the great times that had in Apex when they were younger and to try to promote this to their children and employees.

The year ended with the June National Board meeting in Sydney where plans and some difficult decisions regarding merchandise problems, Duke of Ed, the National Office, the restructure and the AGM were made.

### **Duke of Ed**

This difficulty in club engagement is no more evident than in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards partnership that we have entered into. The project has some real potential to boost clubs both in profile and in membership within their local communities, however take-up has been extremely slow and it seems that clubs are sitting back waiting for someone to come and set everything up for them. We are working on new strategies to get clubs going and to keep information and motivation flowing to them, however there is a role for the all boards and members here, it needs to be a group effort to make things like this happen. The ultimate aim of the partnership is for clubs to build a stronger profile with youth in their local communities and for the overall visibility and profile of the Association to improve.

### **Restructure**

One of principle goals when deciding to run for National President was to look more closely at the way our Association operates, in particular the services offered to clubs and how these are

provided through the management structure. Due to a number of reasons, this process has taken much longer than I would have liked, however it is still progressing, and I am keen to see the process come to fruition. Many thanks to Kate Huth who put a lot of work into the development of a new structure, filling the void when NVP Cameron Page resigned in November and. The AGM in October will see the final decision made by the membership as to whether the plan will progress to reality.

### **Relationships**

In order for the Association to survive and progress, particularly in the new environment being created by the Federal Charities Commission, it is important for us to work with other organisations that can help us progress in our three core goals, *Citizenship, Service and Fellowship* (membership). To that end, I tasked the Apex CEO Noel Hadjimichael to seek out relationships that might fulfil these goals. Whilst not all of the relationships went quite to plan, we have taken some very good steps in the right direction, providing sponsorship for projects; youth based service projects and membership opportunities. The foundations have been put in place; it is up to future Boards to make the most out of these relationships.

### **Lions**

There is a natural synergy between Lions and Apex in Australia, as it was 1945 Apex National President Bill Tresise that worked with Lions in the USA and helped to form the first Lions club in Australia in Lismore. This revitalised partnership between Apex and Lions has been more than twelve months in development. There are a number of reasons to partner with Lions, including cost sharing arrangements, joint projects, mentoring opportunities and membership leads. This partnership is expected

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to provide some significant benefits to both associations.

### **AATFA**

As our only real National Service Project, the Apex Australia Teenage Fashion Awards is our best opportunity to place a product in front of potential partners and sponsors. It is also a relatively simple project for clubs to become involved in, though only a small percentage has. AATFA has been a big beneficiary of our work on partnerships, with sponsors coming on board to help relieve costs from the Association. The team at the Association National Office in Sydney has been instrumental in transforming the competition from a significant financial impost and difficult to arrange project, into a slick and professional operation. With a new national committee formed to take charge of the National Final and better coordinate the states, the AATFA competition is in a very strong position to be the cornerstone project for the Association and continue to grow and provide new opportunities for youth, and for Apex.

### **National Office**


Whilst we have been very well served by the team at our National Office in Sydney, it has become increasingly apparent that as an Association we are no longer able to afford such a comprehensive service. This year saw the National Board undertake a review of the quality and quantity of service provided by our secretariat as well as reassessing the needs of the Association. As a result of this there are some significant changes occurring. The ultimate aim is to ensure that the Associations needs are met in the most efficient and cost effective manner.

### **International**

There has been quite a lot of work occurring on an International front in the past year. The year began with unofficial tour of more than twenty Apexians from Australia attending conventions in Singapore and or Malaysia. This ten day tour produced more "Apex stories" than years of normal Apex fun. Our keen International Relations Manager Kate Huth has continued to work hard cultivating the newly formed Association in Indonesia which is expected to charter in early 2013. Apex India came alive again and hosted a very successful Mass Tour in January which a number of Australians attended. To top off the year, Apex Philippines with financial assistance and a small work party from Apex Australia constructed a new Day Care Centre for children in Leganes. It should be noted that Life Member Ian "Willy" Oates had a big part to play in both the India Tour and the Day Care Centre as well as coordinating the Philippines student bursary scheme.

### **Thanks**

Whilst due to unusual circumstances, my time in this role has not yet ended, I would like to thank the 2011-2012 team for their work and in particular for their support during what was some very difficult personal times for me. I also need to give a special vote of thanks to my wife, who has supported me unconditionally during this time and continues to do so, even though jobs at home get left for her to deal with. I look forward to seeing the things we have started this year come to fruition and to laying a strong foundation on which Apex Australia can become anything it wants to be.



**Chris Morahan**  
**National President**

## ANNUAL NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

**CRAIG MAHER**



Well it doesn't seem like 12 months since I started in this role. This Apex Year has been a rewarding and challenging time, where we have (and still are) seeing some exciting changes in the future of our Association.

Over the past 12 months there have been a number of highs and lows, but behind every low point, a person has stepped up to the challenge to continue working toward the goals that we set for ourselves at the start of the year.

In particular I would like to thank and congratulate both Kate and Matthew, on picking up the ball and running with it, in continuing the work on the proposed restructure of the Association when the National Vice President tendered his resignation part way through the year.

Some other challenges we have worked through included issues with supply house orders, clubs in debt, and the subsequent closure of clubs

and general decline in membership. On this note, we found we were not alone, with communications from like organisations such as Lions and Rotary, with similar declines in their membership base.

On a higher note, it was exciting to see the partnerships we formed with the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme and the Australian Navy Cadets. I hope that with these new partnerships and our continuing success with AATFA that we will once again begin to attract the younger generation to our great association.

My only regret for the past year is that I was not able to dedicate as much time to this role as it deserved, with mounting work and family commitments taking up much of my time. I thank all the board members for their patience in waiting for those board meeting minutes, and the fellowship we shared at the face to face meetings. I particularly would like to thank National President Chris for giving me the opportunity to undertake this role, and congratulate him on a successful year in setting us up for our journey towards our new restructure. To the new board, I wish you luck in your endeavours and wish you every success in your work for our Association.

Yours in Apex

**Craig Maher**  
**National Secretary**



## ANNUAL NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT

### ERIN MURPHY



I became a member in March 2008, taking on the immediate role of Club treasurer for Launceston Apex Club in Tasmania for the 2008/2010 period. During the 2009/10 year I served on the Tasmanian State board as State Treasurer, and then took on the National Executive Role of National Treasurer for 2010/2012.

Barely been a member for 4 years and I can safely say that if you are a young business professional that you should seriously consider being a part of this Association at either State or National level.

It is truly a wonderful organisation with incredible potential. In my time I have seen the AATFA National final go from a deficit to almost breaking even within 4 years, Apexians coming together to assist the Nation in the recovery from National disasters (floods & fire), buildings being erected for the under privileged overseas, relationships being maintained and supported between Apex Australia and our partners

overseas, commencement of new business relationships with other organizations to see that our Association continues in heading in the right direction - while holding our values close to our hearts. None of this would be possible if we didn't have such dedicated and passionate Apexians on the front line guiding us.

Positive change in the form of the restructure is a challenging and difficult time for us and it's with that in mind that I have accepted the position of taking this role on again for 2012/13 year - Tim Wilshire from QLD Apex will also be a part of this role as well as a couple of other members yet to be announced. Together we will make it our duty to ensure the financial side of our Association runs smoothly. The continuity in leadership with many of us at present staying on will allow the National Board to implement the necessary changes with smooth transition to develop and grow the Association.

It has been an honour and a privilege to serve as your National Treasurer for this year; I'd like to thank the National Board for your support and a special thanks to National President Chris for his leadership throughout the year.

Finally a massive thank you to our National Office staff, your tireless work doesn't go unnoticed by me and I have enjoyed working alongside you throughout the last 2 years.

Health, wealth & happiness - Yours in Apex,

**Erin**  
**National Treasurer**



## ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX VICTORIA

### DARREN HOWE



My year as Victorian State President is over and I am going to start this report by saying that I have enjoyed the year immensely with this position exceeded my expectations. It has been a pleasure working with Chris and the other National Board members and was a great opportunity to have met some wonderful people that I wouldn't have met otherwise.

I would like to thank my State Board. We had huge ideas, lots of energy, with minimal State experience between us. Most of the board had no experience and put their hands up to make sure that the State Board

was relevant and I believe it took us 6 months to find our feet. I know moving forward, that the hard work that the board has undertaken has helped to better assist all Victorian Clubs in making their clubs viable and to help with the transition to the new Apex model.

All clubs have challenges ahead with pressure to find new members, staying financial and to remain relevant in their local communities. As a board we set our priorities to:

- ✚ Identify clubs with problems and develop an assistance package
- ✚ Obtain updated contact details of members from all clubs
- ✚ Improve communication between Clubs, State Board & the National Board
- ✚ Assist the National Board with promoting and introducing the restructure.

We have made a good start to achieve these objectives. The Board have put payment plans into place to assist struggling clubs and have visited clubs within the state and helped them with strategies to increase their membership.

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Looking forward the new board is looking at offering State Fee relief for Victorian Clubs for 2012/2013, which they hope will ease the financial pressure as well as show that the Victorian Board does care about their clubs and is relevant. I wish the new Board great success in moving Apex forward and making our communities aware of the services that Apex offers.

Thanks need to be given to the hard work undertaken by Mel and her team in organising and running a successful AATFA 2011. We sold 120 tickets to the event and the day was a great success. Last year was the first time that I had been involved with AATFA and I enjoyed the whole experience. The committee for this year's event have been working for 6 months now chasing sponsors, contacting schools, etc and I am confident that it will be as successful as last year's event, if not more so.

Thank you to the National Office. I need to acknowledge and thank Noel, Margo and Braddley who were always willing to help out whenever I asked through the year.

Finally I must thank my family, Julie, Tyler and Danielle for their support and patience not only the last 12 months, but the last 9 years that I have been involved with the Traralgon Apex Club and as the President of the Victorian State Board. I'm now 45 and have been relegated to Senior Active status and a member of Traralgon OASIS. Apex has been an important part of my life and I am thrilled that I have been able to give back to community that I live in. As with everything else, I'm looking forward to this change and the new challenges ahead.

Yours in Apex

**Darren Howe**  
**Victoria State President**  
**2011/2012**

## ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX QUEENSLAND

### TOMAS GUERIN



Apex Queensland entered the year with a budget that was 49% of previous general account and 41% of previous service account. Of that we utilised 45% of the service income and 49% of the general income. All required administrative tasks were completed and state executives were in attendance at all important club functions and events. The driving figures behind the budget were an attempt to emulate the \$240 (\$200 US) flat fee charged by Rotary to their members. Approximately 35% of the money raised in the state by this levy is given to the state for operating income. We have demonstrated that this is more than achievable and could form the basis of a new, more equitable, method of user-pays Apex fees.

Queensland has restructured the youth competitions (AATFA and PS&D) to make them more financially self-sustainable so as not to put too large a strain on the state purse. Coupled

with successful sponsorship from Apex Youth Camps Limited, the competitions operated cost neutral. The events themselves are of an excellent and professional standard and well attended by competitors. We also changed the state your portfolios to run a calendar year which was a sensible decision and has worked well.

The STS was run in conjunction with the State Convention. This year we ran a Commissioner for Declarations course, which was attended by approximately 20 Apexians. This will enable them to certify documents and should be an excellent attribute and skill for the rest of their lives.

The state convention was held in Toowoomba and was well attended with about 66% attendance. Jim McNall (Maryborough) was elected as incoming State President and Greg Fitzgerald (Townsville) was elected as incoming State Vice-President for 2012-13. The delegates voted to support the restructure and also to redistribute state reserves and funds back to the state member clubs using the 75% per club and 25% per member method.

Membership dropped by about 5% across the state and three clubs were closed.

We had six of seven Districts represented by District Governors with Jim McNall acting as regional Governor for the Central Queensland District. We restricted the face-to-face meetings to two to reduce costs; in hindsight I missed the opportunity to have a meeting in October at the Debating finals. By having monthly board

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meetings and separate monthly executive meetings, we had excellent communication and understanding of state and national events. The state executive were privy to all non-confidential National correspondence which I thoroughly recommend for all future executives as Jim has been able to take over the role fully effective from day one.

I thank the members of Apex Queensland for the trust they placed in me as Apex Queensland

State President and enjoyed the experience. I made a difference to the effective financial and administration of the state and wish Jim and Greg all the best for the coming year.

Yours in Apex

**Tomas Guerin – Toowoomba Apex Club  
Queensland State President**

## ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX WA

### MATTHEW PECK



The Apex year has come to an end and it is now time to look back at the year gone by and the significant events that occurred.

#### CHOGM

The CHOGM Festival was held in Perth in October which the state board agreed to be involved in. This was a great opportunity to promote Apex not only to the people of Perth and WA but also to representatives of all the nations of the Commonwealth. There were also opportunities to network with other service, not-for-profit organisations and charities which has helped to raise the profile of Apex. We were able to showcase some of the work by AATFA achievers and I would like to thank the WA AATFA committee for their help and support.

Apex Australia CEO Noel Hadjimichael came over from Sydney for the event along with two representatives of the Duke of Edinburgh Awards. This was the first event where Apexians and the Duke of ED people worked together and this showed that the two organisations can work together.

#### AATFA

This was once again another successful year for AATFA in WA. I was fortunate to be able to attend both the Manjimup heat and the State Final and was impressed by how well both events were run. The rest of the states and national will be following the WA lead by having a separate AATFA committee established rather than the state/national board running the event. I believe this will provide greater focus for the event to ensure that it becomes as successful in the rest of Australia as it is in WA.

#### APEX CAMPS - JURIE AND POINT PERON

The Camp Jurien board took a step back from the hands on “busy-bee” work last year to review the Camp and where the Board wants it to head for the future. It has been decided to try to get the Camp back to its roots of being a true youth/school camp with the commercial side of things being phased out over time.

One of the decisions made was to approach Ronald McDonald House, as they have a unit on the Camp, to see if a partnership could be formed between the two organisations. This has progressed and has also led to extra attention being brought on the Camp as the Governor of WA and his wife visited the Camp during a tour of the region – they are supporters of Ronald McDonald House. Contacts have also been made with groups associated with RMH to see if they too can make use of the facilities available.

The Jurien town is developing rapidly as part of the “SuperTowns” system in WA and they see

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the camp in a different way as to what we do. They want the camp open to the public – not restricted to youth/school groups. This may lead to opportunities down the track with the potential for a new site to be made available to us.

The Camp at Point Peron keeps a much lower profile as it keeps ticking over as usual. We held our January State Board meeting at Point Peron

I would like to thanks Mike Gilbert and Dave Greenwood and their boards for the work that they do for the Camps.

### CLUBS

Unfortunately during the year we lost two clubs – the Apex Club of Margaret River was closed and The Apex Club of Bunbury/Koombana had its charter suspended. Hopefully over the next twelve months the remaining members of Bunbury/Koombana with the assistance of the Busselton club and the rest of the district and state will be able to get the club back on its feet and running again.

We also went through the process of closing the Apex Clubs of WA bank reference number which was causing issues with signatories of Club's bank accounts. This led to the discovery of nine bank accounts belonging to clubs that had been closed – some for over 20 years. We have been able to recover over \$15,000 from these bank accounts.

As always, clubs are doing great work in a variety of ways within their own communities, which are too numerous to list.

### STATE CONVENTION

The State Convention was held in Karratha in June and was a fantastic event. It was great to

be able to have so many people travel to the Pilbara region to see the mining boom up close. I would like to thank the Apex Club of Karratha for their hospitality and congratulate Andrew Maxwell and his team for running such a successful convention.

### THANKS

I would like to thank the team at the National Office for their assistance over the last twelve months, Bradd, Margo and especially Noel have done an outstanding job for our organisation and I wish them all the best in the future.

My thanks also go to the State Board – Kate, Tab, Craig, Cathe and Joost – it has been a pleasure working with you and I appreciate all the work you have put in for Apex in WA over the past twelve months.

To Chris and the rest of the National Board – it has been a year that has had some lows but a lot of highs as well. It has been great to be involved with a group that has had to make some hard decisions but has always had the best interest of Apex and Apexians at the front of their minds. I would like to wish the incoming board all the best for next year.

I also must thank my home club in Katanning for supporting me during the past twelve months while still remaining active in the community. We may be a small club but we get things done.

To the members of Apex WA – thank you for allowing me to be the State President for the past year. It is a role that I did not take on lightly and hopefully I have been able to fulfil the role as intended.

Finally, to my partner Ros, thank you for allowing me the opportunity to do this role. Your support and patience with me while I have

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had to travel and deal with some of the issues that arise has made this year that much easier – thank you. I promise this will be the last time I put my hand up for a role like this (for now).

Yours in Apex

**Matthew Peck**  
**WA State President**  
**2011/2012**



## ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX TASMANIA

### ROYCE WEBSTER



The past year has seen some major changes within the State, as with the rest of the country membership has been declining and we will have some more clubs that have or are in the process of closing.

*Clubs that will close are as following:*

Burnie Emu Bay Apex  
Devonport Apex  
Taroona Apex

Taroona/will be merging with Kingston to form a new named club Kingborough Apex.

*This leaves Tasmania with the following clubs:*

Ulverstone (North West)  
Latrobe (North West)  
Deloraine (North)  
Launceston (North)  
Tamar (North)  
Kingborough (South)

Why are we losing so many clubs in the state, it is not only lack of new members being introduced into the clubs, the current fee structure has impacted dramatically on the clubs to genuinely put money back into the community, with some reporting that nearly 80 percent of monies raised is going directly back to national fees.

The Launceston Apex club is in the process of rejuvenation with past Apexian Leon Cassidy helping the new members get this old club (no 9) get going again. We hope that they are able to do so.

The State still has ample reserves with the only major amount drawn from them was for the running of AATFA. Although this is a State Event, it must be noted that if it wasn't for the members of Tamar and some input from Launceston, this event would not of happened. Dedication from these members saw an outstanding event, especially since they were literally doing the event with hardly any previous knowledge of running the event.

This coming financial year it has been agreed that all State Fees be paid from State Reserves.

The Can-Do alliance certainly polarised opinions across the membership in the state, whilst there were the few that did not see a problem with the alliance, many did not like the cause. It was good to see that so many clubs united in fighting against this alliance. A huge relief to see our strategic partnership was withdrawn from Can-Do.

There is still a certain amount of clubs relying on associate membership and Life membership to help them survive, this is in some ways a good thing retaining older members, but also raises the question should the association get

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rid of the age restriction if Apex is to survive. Having first joined in the mid 80s with Apex, with the age limit at 40 then, those Apexians approaching the age limit had children that were around the joining age of Apex and would encourage their children to join the association. This doesn't happen now, as most families now do not start having children well into their 30s and early 40s. This naturally means that their teenage children don't have any relationship with Apex.....something to consider. The argument that it is hard to change the constitution is non-sense as it has been changed before to raise the age limit and the introduction of women into the organisation.

I would like to thank my State Board, Vice President John Kearns and Secretary Antony Mihal for their assistance during the year. It certainly wasn't an easy time, but that's life in Apex. I would also like to thank past SP and Life Member Greg Morton for his assistance and support.

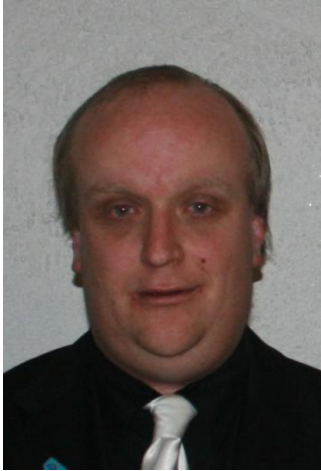
Well my time as an active member in Apex is over, however I will always regard my time within in the organisation as an important part of my life and will miss it immensely.

Yours in Apex

**Royce Webster**  
**TAS State President**

## ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX NSW/ACT

### GRAEME WHITING



The year has gone quickly since stepping into the role of NSW/ACT State President. I never had any intention to become State President it has certainly been a challenging year but also a rewarding one. Having to chair a State Convention was made easier by the practice and confidence gained by being an Apex member for a number of years

A successful State Convention was held in Inverell though down on numbers in previous years. Attendees got some important information on the future direction of the Association and keynote speaker, Senator John Williams gave an interesting speech on how the National Party re-engineered itself to be relevant in today's environment. Unfortunately the public speaking competitions were cancelled due to a number of competitors not willing to travel. The state AAFTA final was held in Newcastle in September and thank you to Troy Robbs and his team of helpers on putting on a successful event. This year the

state is moving the final to Sydney which should ensure the event continues to grow. During the year I also attended the 50<sup>th</sup> Changeover dinners for Blacktown and Boorowa. The State Board also assisted in providing funds for two teachers from Klang School in Malaysia to enable them attend a world class autism conference in Perth. The State Board also assisted with funds for a working party from Blacktown and Berowra clubs to complete maintenance work at the Apex Magic Castle at Smiggin Holes.

Thank to my board for their efforts during the year. A big thank you to Andrew Fraser who took on the role of Secretary/Treasurer for the year just completed.

Yours In Apex

**Graeme Whiting**  
**NSW/ACT State President**

## ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX SA/NT

### BEN CHAMBERS



Well I guess this marks the end of the year of been thrown in the deep end and giving it a crack. This year I was only meant to be the State vice president and watch Mister do his thing that he did so very well. But we lost Mister. This lead me to a very big decision and one that I do not regret for one minute, to step up and give the role of state president a crack. I possibly hadn't had the experience required to take on such a role but I did it and it has given me the passion and insight to continue to work hard and keep this association on its feet.

The biggest thing that gained this year is the growth in my self-confidence with public speaking. Public speaking has never been a strong point for me and I have been able to stand in front of people and run meetings. I feel

especially proud that at the State convention I was about to successfully run the business session and the awards night. Being president this year has been a wonderful experience, I got chucked in the deep end But learnt to swim pretty quickly with the help of my board and more experienced Apexians to help me. The past 12 months have opened my eyes to a whole level of Apex which I didn't fully understand previously. I have come to the realisation that I have 15 years left in Apex and I do hope that in time I will be able to spend more time on the national board and help guide the association further from this level.

At our State convention in May and I was re-elected as State president for another year. Fast forward a week, had a reality check when I looked at my business and family life and just don't think that I could serve another year as state president. It would not be fair on me my family and the association. It was a hard decision to make but one that needed to made. So I wish my successor Ned Golding all the best for the 2012/2013 Apex year and I will remain available for consultation over the next 12 months as Shane Power has very kindly done for me during my presidential year.

I would like to thank the state board for all its help and support this year. We have had our good times and bad times. Our communication has not always been the best but we got the job done. Thank you to the DG's for keeping an eye on each of the clubs for me, I didn't get out to

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visit too many clubs due to work commitments but the DG's have completed this role well.

Now to my support team, David, Andrew and Shane. To be extremely honest I would have crashed and burned badly without your help in running the state this year, I will remain forever grateful for your words of wisdom and helpful actions in my times of need and your friendship.

South Australia and Northern Territory have had a big year with plenty of highs and lows. We have witnessed the demise of the Stirling Apex club ( a flourishing club of 20 members) all because they were unable to function without a regular corrum to club meetings. It has been a huge shock for the state as a whole and a real eye opener for many clubs to not become complacent. A huge number of members does not guarantee a successful club and you still need to work hard regardless of your numbers. This has resulted in another year of district boundary changes, as we become a state of three districts. Greater Adelaide/NT will merge with the South East to bring the level of clubs up to the required number. We started with 22 clubs and ended with 20. I guess that's not too bad, one of those clubs are on the critical list Mt Barker which the membership will drop to two this year.

Thank you to Donna Kelly for taking on such a big role with AATFA with very little explanation of the requirements, it shows a great passion for Apex to dive right in not knowing what your actually meant to be doing and see it through. I think very few Apexians understand the monumental task AATFA is and Donna and her AATFA committee have done a splendid job again, Thank you. AATFA is well under way again this year with my wife Michelle at the helm. AATFA will make its biggest changes since SA/NT joined the national competition. A

bigger venue is planned for this year as the seating capacity was stretched to capacity last year with a number of parents unable to get tickets to the State Final.

I know that the State Presidents report is meant to be all sugar and spice and all things nice but I think it's time to ruffle a few feathers. I've been an Apexian for 6 years I've served as a club president, a DG and now State President. There has been one thing that has been made clear to me and it might just be me, but it is the assumption that it is up to the State or National board to solve the Apex crisis and it is the same people who do the same jobs. People are reluctant to stand up and take on the roles and complain when the board's makes decisions when things don't go the way they hoped.

If we want to see this association continue on and serving the community of Australia then it is not up to the National board or State board, it is up to every individual Apexian. Yes we are planning to change the structure of the association but if it is not embraced by the membership then it won't work, if people don't stand up and take on roles then it won't work. It is the individual Apexians that are going to save this Association with the support of the club members.

It is up to you to invite new members along, it is up to you to stand up and take on roles, it is up to you give support to other members; it is all up to you the membership. We are all busy, we all have lives and we all have to live the Family, Work, Apex balance. I know we all don't have time to be State President or serve on boards. But I do think that it is time that we all looked at ourselves and asked what more can we do to keep this organisation going, me included.

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Apex has been going 80 years. I for one would like to see it hit 100. We need to save this association not for our generation but for the next. I would like to see my daughters become a third generation Apexian.

This has been a turbulent year for me, starting a new business, a new baby and a battle with depression. So a huge thank you to my Wife Michelle who has been my life support this

year. Also my Home club who have put up with my rants, Thanks.

Have I been an good State President? Have I been an effective State President? Possibly not but I stood up and gave it a crack and that I am proud of.

**Ben Chambers**

**2011/12 SA/NT State President.**

## NATIONAL OFFICE REPORT

### NOEL HADJIMICHAEL



The past year has been one of significant review and revision: the determination that a joint office secretariat with the Apex Foundation is not in either the short or long term interest of the Association; the dramatic need to reduce national fees by more than a token amount; and the difficulty of national- inspired projects that rely upon clubs for active engagement.

My time as CEO is now ending with some regrets but with an enormous amount of pride in the resilience of those clubs that are still operating.

The most valued insight was provided when I attended the Yarram Club (Vic) changeover. No matter what decisions are made by levels above this club – the fundamentals were plain to see: a real commitment to local community, an openness to get more people involved, a preparedness to build on old projects with new ideas and a desire for second/third generation Apexians to come forward to serve. This all achieved in an environment where other service clubs like Lions and Rotary are not competitors but companions. I am keen to see Apex progress – by taking the hard decisions early and comprehensively.

I want to record my personal thanks to Margo Johnstone (our expert accountant) and Braddley Hayes (our multi-skilled administrator).

The Apex of my youth was not corporate but community driven, it was effective because it did what it knew it could well. It is better that Apex meets its future with modest confidence in its own strengths than trying to be all things to all members. The days of face to face volunteering have now been overtaken by the social media revolution – it is time we turned that technology to our benefit with vigour.

My professional thanks to my Presidents (Mark, Jeff and Chris) and the boards I have served. You deserve for Apex to rebound and prosper. My twelve year old reminded me why she was proud not to say that I was a former lawyer or university teacher one day at school. She said that what I do is help people that help others I can't put it any better myself.

**Noel Hadjimichael**  
**CEO 2010-2012**



## ANNUAL APEX FOUNDATION REPORT

### JIM HUGHES



Dear Fellow Apexians,

We have had another busy year at the Apex Foundation with the formation of new Trusts to ensure we have the capability to respond in the future in an even more effective way.

Our existing core Trusts have been active with disbursements via the Civilian Widows Trust of WA recently towards a vehicle to provide mobility for a wheelchair bound child.

We have also continued to actively support the Diabetes and Melanoma trusts. The Chalet at Smiggins Holes south of Canberra has been busy providing respite for young people and our facility at the SHACK at Shoalhaven Heads continues to provide relief for families in need.

The Children's Cancer Institute of Australia now comprises over 120 scientists at Randwick in Sydney working on children's cancer with some remarkable results. We have been active with this institution since it was started 25 years ago by Apex and are delighted with its progress.

During the year Professor David from the Adelaide Cranio Facial Surgical Unit visited the Apex Foundation to update us on their work to date. They continue in their world beating standard of work to rebuild deformed children's faces caused by birth abnormality or accident.

On the Fine Arts front we have again sponsored a young Australian to the pinnacle European Hans Gabor Belvedere Classical Singing competition.

Overall our financial position remains prudent, although we have understandably constrained disbursements in the current economic climate.

It was pleasing to finalise the transfer of the dormant Greenup Children's Camp to Apex Queensland Youth Camps who will reactivate the facility for the use of the community.

Lastly I would encourage active Apexians to join the Apex Foundation. We would welcome your involvement as we continue to chart the future. Best wishes to Chris Morahan and his Board for the current year. Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Jim Hughes".

**Jim Hughes AM**  
**Chairman**  
**Apex Foundation**  
**Life Governor Apex Australia**  
**23<sup>rd</sup> July 2012**

## IPNP & ANNUAL APEX AATFA REPORT

### JEFF HARDIE



Following my final meeting as a National Board member on June 23<sup>rd</sup>, the 9 years that I have dedicated myself as a servant of the Association has concluded.

During this past year as Immediate Past National President, I have found it hard to continue to muster the same enthusiasm I have displayed without question. As National President Chris has found, as many before him and I, the two-year period as NVP and NP is an undeniable challenge, and so I have found...very hard to back up from.

However, I have continued to chip in where my experience has warranted and enjoyed making a difference with a couple of different projects.

Simply the part of being an Apexian I have enjoyed the most is being involved in Projects, and whether that be at Club, State or National level, the enjoyment you get from seeing smiles on faces both young and old has been tremendous and a life-changing experience for me.

I now devote myself to making a difference to others, through my career and my continued association with the Teenage Fashion Awards and Operation Snowman.

This past year, we have continued to evolve the Apex Australia Teenage Fashion Awards (AATFA) and with the assistance of our Staff, we conducted an excellent National Final in Sydney on October 15, 2011.

The relationship that has been developed with Whitehouse has been fruitful, and enabled us to conduct an amazing event offering incredible opportunities for Teenagers across the nation, at very little cost to the membership.

In addition, we have developed a new committee to oversee the AATFA National Final. This has been an important step in our membership raking responsibility for the operation of this event and a creating a legacy for its future.

Hopefully the commitment of the people involved will ensure that there is a future for AATFA, not only as a showcase for some wonderful talent, but as a confidence and self-esteem building forum for the youth of tomorrow.

Another project that I have been extremely proud to be involved with this year has been the Philippines Work Party Project, conducted

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in association with the Leganes Apex Club and Philippines National Association of Apex Clubs.

The Australian Work Party that finished off the Project wonderfully followed a committed effort by the members of Apex in the Philippines which ensured that the Project was delivered on time and to budget.

I would like to thanks NP Chris for his support this year, in what has been a trying year for him personally.

Thanks also to the Board members I have served with this year and over the past nine years, from which I have many friendships I will always treasure.

Thanks to Noel, Braddley and Margot for their efforts – I am sure that Apex has been better off for your hard work over the past two years. Best wishes to you and your families.

I am very pleased to have been the initiator of this Project which will enable 60 children to benefit from the Leganes Day Care Centre on a daily basis. To have the opportunity to make such a wonderful difference to the lives of so many in this truly remarkable Apex community has been memorable.

To Chris, Alicia and Erin – I trust that you have another challenging year in leading Apex, looking forward to catching up with everyone in Melbourne for a fantastic 2012 AATFA National Final.

Yours in Apex.....

**Jeff Hardie**  
**Immediate Past National President**

## ANNUAL APEX INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS REPORT

KATE HUTH



### Apex Global

Apex Global is considerably different to the old Apex International. Global exists as a place for the different nations to come together to get and give information about how Apex works in their communities. It gives an opportunity for individual clubs and nations to create joint projects but there is no financial obligation for any nation to do so.

With this in mind it is very important that information is passed from nation to nation. There has been little contact in or out of Apex Global this year. The next meeting is set for the 28<sup>th</sup> of July. At this time the chairmanship passes to Singapore and we may see a change.

### Apex Bursary

For those following on Facebook you will have seen Willies calls to the different clubs and individuals for information and to fulfil their promises in regard to the bursary. This is a thankless task and one he undertakes with great gusto.

The Bursary scheme it seems is plagued with problems both large and small. To this end we are working on a new streamlined process to help alleviate the issues.

### Apex Indonesia

Apex Indonesia is now in the position of inviting the rest of the Apex world to come and see how they do things. This is why they have offered to host the next Apex Global Mid-term meeting.

By National Convention we should have a package for all those wanting to make the trip to Lombok.

### Apex Nations

Fiji – still having trouble but trying hard

Sri Lanka – they showed up after a long time but seem to be getting stronger

India – just celebrated 50 years, no small achievement

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Philippines – has set their convention for next year in Manila from 24 – 26 May

Malaysia – gearing up for the Malacca convention and looking forward to seeing a lot of international guests.

Singapore – getting ready to have everyone show up for their convention, once again a giant party planned.

### **General Wrap up**

All in all it's been a pretty busy year with more plans ahead. There are clubs creating contacts with other clubs, service projects on small and large scale going on and plenty of visiting and fellowship.

**Kate Huth**

**International Relations**

## **FINANCIALS**

**A copy of the 2012/2013 National Budget can be located within Club Resources with the Apex Australia website:**

**[www.apex.org.au](http://www.apex.org.au)**

**If your club needs access, or are having difficulties logging in please contact your DG or state Board.**