



2012 – 2013
National Board
Annual Report

2013 APEX AUSTRALIA ANNUAL REPORT

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2012/2013 NATIONAL BOARD	
NATIONAL PRESIDENT	Chris Morahan
NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT	Kate Huth
NATIONAL SECRETARY	Alicia Styles
NATIONAL TREASURER	Erin Murphy
DIRECTOR OF COMMITTEES	Chris Morahan
VICTORIAN STATE PRESIDENT	Petros Perperiadis
QUEENSLAND STATE PRESIDENT	Jim McNall
NSW / ACT STATE PRESIDENT	Graeme Whiting
TASMANIAN STATE PRESIDENT	John Kearns
WA STATE PRESIDENT	Kate Huth
SA / NT STATE PRESIDENT	Nedd Golding

2012/2013 NATIONAL MANAGERS	
AATFA	Jo-anna Egart & Jeff Hardie
APEX FOUNDATION CHAIRMAN	Jim Hughes / Stephen Bigarelli

FOUNDERS

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

2012-2013 National Board



Back L-R: Graeme Whiting (NSW/ACT), Chris Morahan (National President), Nedd Golding (SA/NT),

Jim McNall (QLD)

Front L-R: Kate Huth (WA & National Vice-President), Erin Murphy (National Treasurer),

Alicia Styles (National Secretary)

Absent from Picture: John Kearns (TAS) & Petros Perperiadis (VIC)

ANNUAL NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Chris Morahan

The 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 and one I would not have missed for the world. In hindsight it is one I probably would not have taken on for two years, particularly not at this time.

At the beginning of this term I was keen to throw myself into the work and continue along the significant path of change that I had embarked on. The path to restructure was not completely clear, though it was set. It was also apparent that it was time to make some big changes with the National Office, as while having a number of staff at call can be beneficial, the Association is simply not in a position to afford it. As well as these major items, there were also some fundamental changes that needed to be made to the Governance of the National Association body, particularly in line with the new Charities Commission.

In amongst all of these changes of course were the regular challenges for the Association, declining membership, lack of motivation, problems with communication and problems getting members to step up into roles at the

different levels of the Association. As a leader in the Association, it is the last of those problems that is the most frustrating. 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.

This year was not about grand projects or visions, even though, I am like all those who came before me who have a vision of what they think Apex can be. What was needed this year was to tidy things up around the governance, processes and management of the Association. With the restructure being voted in at Melbourne last year, it was clear that what the members wanted was a far more cost effective, less intrusive Association, which can provide assistance, marketing and support whenever and wherever it is needed. To this end, we went through all of the expenditure items which the clubs cover via the fees and worked out how these costs could be managed. These were the things we worked on to help meet this expectation:

- It became very clear, very early, that our National Office could not be retained in its current form. We looked at a number of options and ultimately the Board decided to extend our relationship with Lions by contracting

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our secretariat and financial administration to the Lions National office in Newcastle. This started in October 2012, and while it has not all been smooth sailing, as is the way with any significant transition like this, I believe it is coming together well and will provide a long term benefit to the Association. Whilst this year did not see any financial benefit, due to the redundancy payments to the outgoing staff, the effect on the 2013/14 budget has been significant. In 2012/13, we spent \$171,000 on the office. In 2013/14, Kate has budgeted \$109,000.

- We looked at more cost efficient methods for board meetings and reducing the airfare and accommodation expenses of the Board. This has resulted in a reduction in expenditure from \$66,000 in 10-11, to \$14,000 in 12-13. This has been done by reducing the number of functions attended by the Executive and reducing the number of face to face meetings, choosing instead to have a monthly teleconference to maintain communication and make decisions.
- We continue to work on the insurance policy, getting it as accurate as we possibly can with the assets that we insure (especially club assets), whilst negotiating heavily with the insurer to get the best deal possible on our public liability policy, which accounts for over ½ of the policy cost. This has resulted in the insurance costs coming down about 4% in the past three years, which does not seem much, but you need to

consider that due to the various disasters, insurance costs across the market have risen sharply.

- The challenge moving forward is to get AATFA running on a cost neutral basis and to further investigate other income sources. There will always need to be a club/member fee, nobody gets a free lunch, however the fee needs to be affordable and in keeping with the services provided.

Finances and financial management was a recurring theme through the year and one of the changes that you will be seeing is that National will no longer be operating out of two accounts (Charitable and Association). This was a legacy arrangement, based on the General and Service accounts that clubs use. Due to the changes in the rules around tax deductible accounts however, the Charitable account, which has tax deductibility status is not being used correctly. From July 2013, all operation expenses will be run out of the Association account and the Charitable account will purely be for charitable purposes, including larger projects run by clubs which need DGR status. We are also trimming down the number of bank accounts that National utilise and deleting a number of unused equity accounts held.

All of this, while not strictly noticeable to the membership, will help the National Association to be more efficient moving forward and will have an ongoing benefit to the clubs in the form of lower fees.

These were the things we did achieve, however there were a number of other things which I wanted to get done, which ultimately went by the wayside. This is partly due to me not driving

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these things and not motivating the National Board well enough. I don't like excuses, however I will offer by way of explanation the fact that I been undergoing treatment for depression, something which sneaks up on you rendering you virtually useless without you realising it. Once you acknowledge the problem and start working on it, suddenly your life starts to take shape again. This is happening at the moment for me, and I am starting to get a lot of things done again. My only real regret for the past year is that I did not acknowledge the problem and seek help earlier. I, like most men, just considered that I needed to harden up and get on with things. My hope is that I can get the message out to others out there that a spoonful of cement does not always work.

Manifesto

Many people have different views of what the Association is and what our role is in society. It is my view that the Association was formed as a means of getting young businessmen together and to help them become better people both by improving their skillset and by helping them gain a community conscience. The real strength of Apex, and the greatest legacy that we have is members, both past and present. There are Apexians at every level of government, and in the boardrooms of many of Australia's biggest businesses. Those people learnt many of the business skills that helped them get to where they are by running events and projects in their Apex clubs. To see this fall away, I believe will leave a long lasting hole in Australian society.

It is true, that in the current economic and workplace environments that we all seem to work much longer hours, whether this is at the workplace, or at home, responding to the phone/email. People consider themselves time

poor, though at the same time are involved in far more leisure activities than ever before. There are also more charities, volunteer groups and sporting/social clubs than at any point in Australia's history. To stand out in this crowd as a group that people really want to be a part of, we need to define who/what we are and be very clear about that in all things that we do. Our clubs are our biggest asset, but at times can be a liability, as there is little coordination or communication between clubs, so they can at times even work against each other within a community. Until the clubs can work together, communicate with each other, socialise with each other and work to common goals, the Association will continue to decline.

One of the roles of the National Board is to try to help provide a common framework for clubs to work within, and we have been trying to do this for a number of years. If this is to work however, it needs for all clubs to stick within the framework and beat the same or at least similar drums. I often hear about the Lions and Rotary TV advertising and "Why aren't we doing that?" I would ask, what should we put into a huge marketing campaign? We have no current National service projects and have not had a significant service project in the Name of Apex for 30 years (I am excluding AATFA as a competition, not a project). The closest thing we have at present is the Copper Coast retreats in SA, funded by the Postie Bike Ride. This is a truly marketable project, both for the outcome as well as for the novel fund raising concept. Perhaps this is something that could be taken nationally?

I will continue to be involved, and continue to drive for projects that can make Apex relevant and noticed in the community. If we all start doing this, then it will happen and we will grow

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and while all of this is happening, we will be doing some extraordinary things for the community.

Thanks

It has been two very tumultuous years, however my time in this role has finally ended. As I said earlier, we come into these jobs with great expectations and get a quick smack of reality, which we need to work through. You cannot however do this alone, it is the support of those around you that allows you to keep things moving and to get things done. I would first like to thank the National Board team for their work on preparing the Association for the biggest changes in 20 years. The staff at the new office, in particular Angela have worked very hard to understand our Association and the different way we do things, whilst at the same time catch up on work which had been a bit neglected in the changeover period. I would particularly like to recognise the young female executive team, Kate, Erin and Alicia, without whom it would have all turned to ... Erin has now worked on the transition of two changes of National accounts people and a full redesign of the accounts. No Treasurer before her has even been asked to effect and manage this much change. Alicia has stepped in and gotten things done when I started to go off the rails, keeping the Association moving and the National Board on track. Kate stepped up as National Vice President and led the restructure project. This was at the same time as she was State President in WA. These three young Apexians have done an extraordinary job and I particularly thank want to them for their friendship and personal support for me during

what has been some difficult times in my personal life.

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. She has been there for me at every turn and without her, I am sure that my mental state would have deteriorated to a very bad place. My promise to her is that I will now get the jobs at home done and that we will get to spend my annual leave doing things together rather than me shooting off doing Apex things.

I look forward to seeing and helping with the things we have worked on over the last two years become a strong foundation on which the Association can grow again. Apex is a great Association and it has been a great privilege and learning experience to lead it. I recommend to all Apexians to take the opportunity to take on leadership roles within the Association. The Association needs you, but you will be surprised at how much it can do for you.

Finally I wish to congratulate Kate Huth on being the youngest person to take on the National Role in my memory as well as being the first ever woman. I have known Kate since just after she joined Apex and I know she will do a tremendous job, as I have already seen her in action. A passionate individual with Apex in the veins, we could not be in safer hands.

Chris Morahan
National President

ANNUAL NATIONAL VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Kate Huth

It is once again the time to employ that great 20/20 hindsight that we all have and take a look at the year that was. Because of my dual roles as WASP and NVP I focused on 2 main things in the NVP job. These were the restructure and the Convention.

Being on both sides of the table for restructure gave me a slightly different point of view than I would otherwise have had. I was in the position of finding out information about the finalising of states at the same time as helping to shape the future direction. However this had some positive side effects in the way things ended up going, mainly because it allowed me to see where there had previously been double or triple handling of things. This also meant that I was able to find and apply changes as part of the preparation for restructure from the position of being the one that had to do the things not just talk about it.

As we started the new calendar year it became apparent that these changes that we voted in at the last AGM are going to take a couple of years

to get flowing properly. The new board will have their jobs cut out for them trying to have it all up and running without losing the momentum that the restructure has bought us.

The other part of the NVP role was the organising of the convention. I won't say it was easy but you are reading this now because we are having it in Alice Springs. As I sit typing up my reports I can only hope to see you at the convention and attached National Training Seminar.

This year has all been about leading and preparing for the big changes. The biggest change is in how we look at things.

Using my 20/20 hindsight, yes we could have done it differently, but I think that, with time, the results of the restructure and our Regeneration will speak for themselves.

Kate Huth
National Vice President

ANNUAL NATIONAL SECRETARY'S REPORT

Alicia Styles

It was a cold, snowing winter's night on top of a Tasmanian mountain when the idea of taking on National Secretary was first presented to me, and to be honest I had my reservations.

Being on National Board had never been an aspiration of mine, after all, wasn't it that group of men, seemingly always dominated by Queenslanders, who dictated and thwarted control over us clubs?

And yet speaking to me was Chris, who seemed like a friendly, reasonable guy who genuinely appeared to have the best interests of Apex, and the clubs at heart.

Chris had given me a few days to think about it, so quickly I made the ring around to the people who's opinion I respected most, who strangely all have a connection with Apex - my parents (who are both past Apexians), and Ian Gabites and Life Member Greg Smith who were past State and National board members.

Despite their recollections of experiences and 'words of encouragement' I decided to accept the opportunity and agreed to take on the role of 2012-2013 National Secretary.

I vowed to make a positive difference and hold accountable those 'not-to-be-trusted national board members'. After all, with the established staff in National Office how hard could it be?

Well, before my term ever officially started my expectations were thrown out the window:-

- On review of expenses and functionality the National Office was wound-up and the hunt was on for a viable, cost effective yet efficient alternative.
- The AGM was soon to be held and, never previously fully attending a

national AGM, I found myself having to pull together an agenda and annual report, which was to be examined by members all over the country.

- And if you thought taking accurate minutes in a club meeting was hard, try doing it faceless over the phone – especially when there's this guy called Jim (a Queenslander of course) who insists on discussing and questioning everything just when I think we have the meeting all wrapped up.

Like everyone else; the year held many highs and lows (both personally and in Apex), achieved and failed expectations as well as many learning points.

Of my highs I can list the following:-

Receipting and reviewing all the National award nominations for 2012. It is encouraging and inspiring to see so many great projects, clubs and individuals all serving our communities with the same ideals at the forefront.

Having worked with several other charities and groups in the past, I can easily say that Apex is unique in its abilities and one of those rare groups that serve and benefit both the community and its members simultaneously. At every opportunity I share the benefits and commendable aspects of Apex, and hope that Australia continues to reap the rewards of this association and all its members stand for.

I have had the opportunity to meet and share with some wonderful people, many of whom I gladly call friends. It is a fantastic feeling to be able to walk into a room full of strangers, yet at the same time, know you have something instantly in common with each of them.

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I have learned the following:-

Some of your greatest allies are not the people who stand nearby and happily accept all you do without challenge; but those who critique your work, push you to do better, tell you when you're wrong and force you to question 'why'.

If you want to grow and learn as a person, then sometimes you have to take on new things, expand out of your comfort zone, give something a try – even if you've never done it before and don't have a clue where to start - and don't ever be too stubborn or embarrassed to ask for help.

I have learnt that National Board is not full of 'not-to-be-trusted national board members' but well meaning, everyday members, all wanting to do what's best for the clubs and the association. Joining National Board has been one of the greatest things I have done, it has shown me there's more to Apex than my immediate club and I encourage anyone and everyone to give it a go at least once.

Chris taught me the phrase 'it's not cattle stations'. It is ok to make mistakes, and it's equally important to accept that other people make mistakes to.

"The needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few".

Sometimes what's best for a particular club, or group of clubs, differs to what's best for the association of clubs, and there will be a decision made that you may disagree with. In these

instances respect, constraint and good communication is the key – contact your regional communicator or a national representative. Ranting silently within a club, or loudly over Facebook will rarely result in a positive outcome. Equally, tell people if they're doing a good job - your 1 positive comment in amongst 5 negative can change a person's week.

Finally, I'd like to say special thanks to the following people:-

- Richard Colwell – for all your assistance, suggestions and words of wisdom, especially at my lowest point at the 2012 AGM.
- Sarah Clark for all the times I needed a friend.
- John Styles – for all the hours I spent at my laptop.
- All the members of the National Board – even Jim, not only could I always count on you to have your report to me on time but for all the times I would stop myself and think 'now what would Jim say/think/do'.
- And especially to Chris – for giving me the chance, encouraging me to try and believing that I could.

All the best to Kate and the new board – may you gain as much from the experience as I did.

Alicia Styles
National Secretary

ANNUAL NATIONAL TREASURER'S REPORT

Erin Murphy

Dear Apexians,

We have come to the end of another financial year within the world of Apex.

As you all would be aware by now, we have commenced the final stages of implementing the changes within the Association, AKA the 'restructure'.

Now that the new board are in place I have no doubt that with the experience that each Apexian brings that you will all be in safe hands.

It was a rather difficult year for the 2012/2013 board, in particular with knowing how we were tracking against budget. It took some time for the new book keeper Angela Webster to find her feet and learn the ins and outs of our wonderful yet complicated systems, she has been amazing in tidying up our debt, creating working papers for Balance Sheet items and the like.

It has been a tough year for all involved. I can safely say that in the 3 years I was in office, the

best move we made was to outsource our Secretariat function to Lions. They now have nearly a full year under their belt and I say this with confidence that this next financial year is in good hands.

I would like to thank the 2012/2013 board for their camaraderie throughout the year. IPNP Chris for hanging in there...and NP Kate for taking the bull by the horns and leading the Association into greatness.

There is a good vibe amongst Apexians now, so just roll with the punches, the sky is the limit!

Remember to be open minded and embrace the change.

To the new board, best wishes and good luck. For the last time, yours truly..... NT Erin Murphy

Erin Murphy
National Treasurer

ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX QUEENSLAND

Jim McNall

I would just like to start with thanking everyone who has supported me through my year as State President. In particular I would like to thank Steve, Greg and Mark for everything they have done to help throughout the year. There were some trying and difficult times but they stood beside me and helped out where required. I would also have to thank the National Board that I shared the year with, they put up with a few curly questions and statements throughout the year.

State Board

I thoroughly enjoyed the time I had as State President working alongside my team to help Clubs. Everyone put in what they could through the year and everyone was still speaking at the end.

As an indication of the level of commitment there were 2 Senior Active Memberships given to 2 DGs being the DG from South West Terri Hay and DG from Sunshine Coast/North Brisbane Sandie Collins.

Having the monthly teleconferences through the year as started by Tomas Guerin, maintained the communication and the 2 face to face meetings that were tied in to events, State Finals Debating & Public Speaking and the Awards Ceremony, provided the fostering of the teamwork and relationships that we had. My State Executive were that up to speed with how everything was travelling that the couple of meetings that I dialled in late they were just about done with all information delivered to the rest of the board, or at least that's what they told me.

National Board Meetings

I attended as many of the NB meetings as I could for the year and I definitely think there was a lot of value in the way things were changed to the monthly teleconferences throughout the year. We had some good discussions, some things went my way, some didn't but all in all I think Queensland was well represented again. I am not sure how many times it was that Alicia had to cross out "that bloody Jim" as it probably wouldn't have looked so good in the minutes.

National Office

The National Office seemed to go along quite ok with good correspondence backwards and forwards. From some of the conversations I had with Angela she was building a good relationship with some of the Clubs.

National Convention/AGM

I attended the AGM in Melbourne where we had a National Board Orientation to set the scene for the year. It was good to see a good contingent of Queenslanders there and we even scooped a few awards. This set the scene for the year with the National Board getting to know each other.

We also have a few car loads of people heading to Alice Springs in October enjoying some fellowship along the way.

Youth

The Youth projects in Queensland during the 2012 – 2013 year were a bit of a mixed bag.

The AATFA Competition that finished in 2012 went reasonably ok but the 2013 Competition struggled.

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The Duke of Edinburgh struggled to get off the ground but the Youth Committee that is in place for the 2013 – 2014 year may be able to pick it up.

The Public Speaking and Debating was well supported again with approx. 30 – 40 schools involved across the State.

We have been able to maintain our major sponsor in Apex Youth Camps Ltd (Camp Mudjimba and Greenup) that contribute to the running costs, this coupled with the nomination fee that we charge the students means that it shouldn't cost the Clubs any money.

Membership

While there has been a decline in membership of late, there are some Clubs that are turning things around.

The Bundaberg Club inducted 11 members during the year. This came about basically from talking about Apex to people in the community - the President was in a shop getting quotes to spend some grant money and was asked more about Apex. He told him a bit about it and then invited him along. That person then invited some people he knew; before we knew it I was attending a District function that had 8 prospectives.

The Mt Isa Club have gone from 3 members to 7 members by asking people they knew.

The Toowoomba Club has business men lunches, where they invite people that they have business connections with, along to lunch and then ask them to come along to Apex.

It was good to see throughout the year that there were a number of enquiries that have come through from National Office from the Web Site from people wanting to know more about Apex. As these were sent to me as well, I

was seeing approx. 1 - 2 people a week that wanted to be a part of our Association.

The other thing I was working on was past members' children, they already know about Apex from their childhood, they just need to be asked along. Greg was talking to a past member that is now in Rotary about this. That Rotarian has put an article in his newsletter asking his fellow members to ask their children to join Apex. Consider how many people you know that have children that are between 18 & 45, now how many of those children are in Apex. They don't have to be in your Club, any Club they join is helping the Association as a whole. This is the same as friends that live in other towns that aren't in Apex.

The numbers seem to be stable at the moment with the loss of some members retiring or moving being offset by new members being inducted. There were no Club closures in 2012 – 2013 but 3 were in various stages of closure shortly after the year finished.

I didn't get as much done as I would've liked for the year but I did the best I could and financially I believe we are in better shape than when we started the year. Communication was open and processes were transparent. I learned more about this beast we know and love called Apex and made some more friends. It goes to show the level of friends you have made when they don't ask you to come and stay at their place when you are passing through as it is just expected that it wouldn't be any other way.

We move into a new era now and I wish Kate and her board all the best and I look forward to the next stage.

Jim McNall
Apex Club of Maryborough
Apex Queensland State President

ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX WA

Kate Huth

This is the last report I will write as WA State President and it has been the sort of experience that brings the old Chinese curse to mind “may you live in interesting times”. This has been one of the most interesting years that I have ever spent in Apex.

We have had a large variety of things happen and I'd like to take the opportunity to go through a few of them with you all.

AATFA

Once again the 2012 AATFA went off like a frog in a sock. It was an amazing experience for all involved. This year started out a little slow in WA AATFA land but picked up pace and by the time you read this will be heading towards another giant state final.

We saw the first heat held by the Albany club and the club there is already planning for bigger and better next year. The other regional heats are once again outdoing themselves with the level of talent that they produce and the support that they garner from the community.

Camp Point Peron and Jurien Bay

The two camps at Point Peron and Jurien Bay have had an interesting year.

Apex Camp Jurien is in the throes of their own restructure as a result of the Apex Australia changes and is deep in discussions with the local community on how to integrate the camp

further into the area. The continual work of refurbishment and renovation continues.

Over the last year a partnership has been formed with Port School (a school which caters for disengaged students and those that don't learn well in traditional classrooms), which has been of great benefit to the students and the camps. It has allowed the students to practise their skills in the real world and the camps to get young people up and active in their area.

Unfortunately March saw the closing of the camp at Point Peron. This camp was opened in the 1950's as part of the partnership between Apex and the Association of Civilian Widows. When it was built at Point Peron, near Rockingham, it was situated some 50 m from the beach in an area known for great fishing and calm waters. Since that time the area has become more built up, the sea traffic greater and erosion has started to have a major effect on the peninsula. The effect has been so great that in December one of the units at the camp (built far from the ocean) fell into the ocean. With 2 more units within 1m of a cliff face that is being eroded continually it was decided to close the camp.

Membership

It was a year of little movement in numbers for Apex WA. It seemed that with every step forward one was taken backwards. I was lucky enough to visit quite a few clubs over the

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course of the year and participate in the induction of members at most of them. We also saw members leave clubs and the association, mainly due to moving to different places for work.

Last year saw the Apex Club of Bunbury/Koombana's charter suspended. After a year of work by the members of the club they achieved their membership targets and found new projects in the area. It was with great pleasure that their charter was reinstated at the end of the year.

The Apex club of North of the River did find itself in a bit of a bind, losing several members and their club rooms in the same month. As a result they have been placed on the Club Assistance Scheme to give them a chance to restart in a new place.

Final Convention

The final State Convention was held in Jurien Bay in April, hosted by the Katanning Club. In spite of the difficulties that you can encounter when organising an event 600km from home

the Katanning Club did a great job and a wonderful time was had by all.

The business session got pretty heated when it came to the motions that dealt with the dissolution of the state and the funds that it had. It is fair to say that it was the most active debate I have seen at an Apex convention in a long time. After much discussion and many different motions it was resolved that all the funds of Apex WA are to be put into a trust and \$5,000 per year made available to Apex clubs within WA for the promotion and betterment of Apex.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank my board; Cathe, Ebony, Joost and Kevin. Without you guys it would have been a very different year. I want to thank you all for volunteering for the roles that you took on and the parts that you played in this final State Board.

Kate Huth
WA State President

ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX TASMANIA

John Kearns

State situation report

There are six clubs in Tasmania at present with Devonport holding their final meeting and Burnie Emu Bay formally closing, Launceston was also a late closure after the Tasmanian State Convention.

The closing of Burnie Emu Bay attracted a fair bit of interest from the community and from the media as there appeared to be active people available but not enough interest to rejuvenate the club, the handing in of their charter was disappointing for me personally.

The clubs remaining in Tasmania are Latrobe, Tamar, Deloraine, Ulverstone and Kingborough (Kingborough was formed by merging Tarooma and Kingston clubs in the South of the State).

Clubs in debt

This has been an area of focus since October to ensure all clubs stay up to date and that no clubs get so far behind that they give up hope of continuing. Depending on payments received only Burnie Emu Bay has an outstanding amount which they have committed to pay. There are no clubs that show that they are in need of help.

Restructure progress

The Tasmanian State board has been deregistered through the office of Consumer affairs. In my opinion, Tasmania is well placed to take on the changes as they have had a

reduced board structure for the last three years. One of the main items going forward will be effective communication so that they stay in contact with what is happening with National Apex.

Work in Progress

The debates have rekindled some interest in inter clubs within Tasmania and it good to see the old North/South rivalry kick in again with Kingborough keen to take on the winner of the Northern clubs. Unfortunately due to some scheduling issues, they were unable to debate this time but are keen for next year if debates remain. It was great to see Deloraine take out the title this year.

All clubs around the State have been operating very well as they all now have at least one established event which keeps their club focused.

The AATFA finals held in Launceston by the Tamar club were a credit to the club and a great advertisement for Apex, there was a lot of positive feedback from the day.

Latrobe again held their annual craft fair which just goes from strength to strength.

Ulverstone Club was again involved with Variety Club Tasbash, which is not only great advertising but also a fantastic fundraiser for disadvantaged children.

The Deloraine Club were also involved with Agfest and the Deloraine craft fair, and continue

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to develop the new club rooms and function area at Red Hills near Deloraine.

The bushfire appeal was kicked off by the Tamar club and most clubs throughout the State have pledged or contributed a similar amount. It is hoped to use these funds directly in one of the small towns by building a new BBQ shelter, playground or similar – all ideas are welcomed. There was also good attendance at a working bee organized with Blaze Aid in Sorell with fencing being completed at many properties.

Apex is alive and well in Tasmania, so thanks go to the Club Presidents and the State VP Sarah for all their help. In one way the restructure will be good for the State but one disappointment is that Sarah did not get a chance to be Tasmanian State President which

is a loss for Apex in Tasmania; I hope one day to see Sarah take on the NP role instead.

In closing, I have now retired from Apex because of age and will concentrate on my family, job and studies before I commit to any other community service organisation as I am keen to continue.

I wish NP Kate Huth, the Tassie reps Ian and Sarah and the rest of the National Board all the best as they take Apex forward to a stronger position; I hope all the new members you encourage to join have as much fun as I did over the years.

John Kearns
TAS State President

ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX NSW/ACT

GRAEME WHITING

From the NSW/ACT it was a very quiet year from the board, with the focus on getting ready to dissolve the state structure.

State Convention

The State Convention was hosted by Blacktown in late June with over 120 people attending.

At the Convention clubs voted to donate the remaining money in the reserves fund to the Apex Magic Castle at Smiggin Holes and the Apex Shack at Shoalhaven Heads. This will be substantial donation and leave a legacy for these two great Apex assets to continue into the future.

State Awards

Congratulations to all the State award winners, Milton Ulladulla receiving three awards, Membership, Service and Club of the year.

Jamie Vincent and David Storok, both from the Blacktown club, received the State Apexian and Young Apexian awards respectively for their efforts during the year to Apex and the Blacktown club.

South Wagga club received the international relations award for their project in building community facilities in Cambodia.

Finally Muswellbrook received the Citizenship award for their bike path.

I would like to thank Rob Gill, Jamie Vincent, Andrew Fraser and Graeme Valenzisi for their efforts and support over the last two years as my term of State President. It was certainly an honour and privilege to be State President.

Graeme Whiting
NSW/ACT State President

ANNUAL STATE PRESIDENT'S REPORT – APEX SA/NT

Nedd Golding

Fellow Apexians past and present will look back at this year and may ponder, what is it that motivates us to change, what pushes us to continue and why did it have to be us to take on this challenge .

Apex Australia 80 years on and going strong is what I've been saying.

It's the ideals of Apex that are our strength of our association.

When we recite the ideals before a meeting we don't just say the words, we believe in them and we live by them.

After this Apex year is finished and we have wound up the structure of our State and Territory, Apex will not be weakened, it will be stronger and it will have a new beginning, new ideas and new exciting challenges.

Each and every Club across Australia will have the opportunity to create a new Apex and to mold Apex into a way that enhances our ideals for the future of our association.

I have enjoyed taking on the challenge of being the last State President for South Australia and Northern Territory. In true Apex spirit as they say "I was asked and I said yes". So not really knowing where Apex was up to into its restructure I thought I could help bring some ideas to the table.

My experience on other committees, boards and local council are one thing but Apex is a whole other ball game.

One of the main differences to any other groups or government body is that Apex clubs across Australia are all different in some way, each club has a niche, and each club has people involved from all different walks of life.

Making the right decisions on behalf of you the members a decision can't be personal, nor can it be made to suit your own clubs opinions. It's important for any board member to make decisions on behalf of everyone.

Now that we embark upon the new structure it will be important that every club take a stance and deliver their ideas to our National Board in the appropriate manner.

When we establish the new regions, regional support groups and communicators, it's these people that will guide you in the right direction so that you can be heard.

I don't think it's any more complicated than that. It's your club, your association and your free time that makes Apex work.

I wish every club within SA/NT the best of luck with our new beginning and continue to live up to our ideals of Apex.

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I wish to thank our State Board for all their hard work in our final year:-

-State Vice and Immediate Past State President and District Governor of Greater Adelaide and Northern Territory Ben Chambers for doing too much.

-State Secretary David Venning for his guidance and mentoring and heaps more.

-State Treasurer Andrew Venning for his monetary expertise.

District Governor Riverland and lower North Rhain Hondow for being on the ball.

District Governor Yorke and Upper North and Eyre Isaac Grant for his assistance

District Governor South East Paul McCarthy for all his and his Districts Clubs involved in making sure our last bash is a huge success.

I would also like to acknowledge the great work of Michelle Chambers and the AATFA team this year and wish them continued success in the years to come.

I also wish to congratulate all our clubs that have had successful projects and events ongoing in their towns and regions over the past years especially to name a few the Postie Bike Challenge, Camel Cup, Beer can regatta, Australia Day BBQs, or whatever your club does well.

Nedd Golding
SA/NT State President

ANNUAL APEX FOUNDATION REPORT

Stephen Bigarelli

It is with great pleasure that I write this report on the Apex Foundation for the Association's annual report.

The Foundation continues to have a strong relationship with the Association even though we have seen changes at the operational level.

The year started with the decision to not continue the joint administration that was operating from the AON offices in Sydney.

The joint administration was as a result of a long process of integration of the Association and the Foundation. The concept and intentions were all good, but the practical aspects just did not work. It is a sign of how strong the relationship is that we make this major change and are still friends!

The end of the year saw Chris Morahan stand down as a director of the Foundation when he ended his term as National President of the Association. Chris had been a director of the Foundation for 3 years, and always provided valuable input to the Board and represented the interest of the Association with much vigour and enthusiasm. We wish Chris well for his future endeavours and thank him for his time on the Board.

With the new structure of Apex, the Association's representative on the Foundation board is no longer the President of the day but a member of the Association National Board.

We welcome Jamie Vincent to this role and in the short time he has been on the board he has proven to be a valuable member of the Board.

The Foundation has had a very good year financially and this will enable us to continue to increase the distributions to our beneficiaries. It is important to remember that the trust funds we hold, which are funds raised by Apexians all those years ago, continue to provide ongoing support for our beneficiaries.

This year the Under Privileged Children's Trust, which operates the Shack at Shoalhaven and the Chalet at Smiggin's Hole, was fortunate to receive a large donation from past Apexian Lindsay Carthew. Lindsay's donation will ensure that much needed maintenance at both facilities can be undertaken as soon as possible. We thank Lindsay and his family for their generosity.

The story just gets better as at the last NSW/ACT convention it was voted on that the Reserves of the State on windup be donated to the Under Privileged Children's Trust.

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We thank NSW/ACT for this outstanding decision and would like to see other states consider making contributions to our trusts on windup.

Lastly, it great to be able to report that there will now be a third facility to be operated by the Under Privileged Children's Trusts. This is the Copper Coast project in South Australia.

This project will provide cabins for children with cancer, to be able to experience a holiday by the beach and at very low cost.

The project has been funded by the very successful Apex Outback Postie Bike Ride.

The lease has been signed with the local council for the sites at a caravan park, one unit has

been purchased, and soon, the construction of two more units will commence.

The Foundation publically thanks all those involved in the project, especially Neil and Dale Sawley. What has been achieved by this group of Apexians is an example to all that Apex, despite all the issues it faces, can continue to make a difference in the community.

I look forward to working with Kate and the new Board in this Apex year, and wish them all the best with the new structure of Apex.

Stephen Bigarelli
Chairman Apex Foundation

ANNUAL APEX AATFA REPORT

Jo-anna Egart

AATFA 2012 – In one word... Fantastic!

It's hard to believe a small and dedicated group of volunteers around Australia, who have so little contact, could bring together an amazing experience such as this, but with a good team behind you, and everyone stepping up to their roles – I believe we delivered a high calibre event this year.

There were still the usual troubles – what to do regarding flights & travel – something I anticipate will compound with the dissolution of State Boards. Not everyone accepted the offer of accommodation as some stayed with relatives or made it a family weekend. We also had issues with understanding around transport – who pays and for what? Probably something that requires more discussion next year.

If you've never been to the Whitehouse Institute for Design – let me say, it never disappoints. We are treated like royalty and with great favour, so must wholeheartedly thank them for their kind attention. Anthony Ruberto is there to greet us in the morning; he provides assistance and advice during the day and is the last one to leave at night. Service is first class all the way.

The entrants began arriving at 0900. Kelly Baker from Apex Vic was there to check everyone in. This was a seamless process. Trevor Bailey, also from Vic, organised catering and did a lot of running around for us in the lead up to Nationals. Both of them did an

excellent job tucking us in and it's great to turn up and have no unexpected surprises.

After checking in, garments were then locked away with our esteemed judges from the Whitehouse Technical Teaching team for technical judging. At the same time, entrants received opening introductions and orientation.

Then it was on to the business of AATFA with team WA upfront taking care of the runway choreo, special thanks to Elaine Shraven and Cleo Redhead for this. We had Team Tassie out the back managing the hair and makeup process. Thank you to Sarah Jane and Jess. Team SA & Qld were this year's co-hosts & were busily practising their lines. Thank you, Melanie and Jeff. Troy from Team NSW was running quick workshops on the traffic light system and anything general that needed the attention of an experienced eye – thanks Troy. Then it was up to myself, Carlo, Leone and Romano to get the technical aspects right. I worked on music and other concepts, while Romano began building a secret Facebook page, (more about that later). Carlo & Leone were running interference, covering bases, printing off and laminating certificates... basically anything that was asked of them. Thank you guys.

I was ready for bed before the event had started, but with the excitement building, it was easy to run on adrenaline.

With National Conference going on downstairs, we were lucky to pick up another couple of volunteers from a local club. These members

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acted as doorpersons and security – keeping the increasingly interested crowd out of the room and from behind backstage. I can't remember the name of this club, but thank them for their invaluable assistance. It was their first AATFA and, from their faces, they appeared to have a really great time.

Onto the show and this is where things get interesting. For the first time EVER, we were lucky to secure an internationally known Fashion Designer to Guest Judge for us. One small problem... he was in New York. Working with Jeff Hardy, Romano Formentin and our amazing sound & lighting tech, with a bit of back work put in the days before, we were able to establish a crystal clear Skype connection which never failed us.

Guests walking into the show were treated to the amazing Henry Roth pottering around setting up his room whilst chatting to our room. Henry joined us at 4am New York time and stayed for the whole show! This is where the secret Facebook page came in. With pics already uploaded of the front and back of each garment, Henry was able to comment, judge and score as if in a separate room. Cutting back to him during the show was also fun as his exuberance and excitement levels are infectious.

With our other judges being Incoming National President Ms Kate Huth, Past AATFA Young Designer of the Year, James Penrose and Jennifer Jordan from the Butterfly Foundation, we were set to go.

Looking back now, it's all a blur, but one thing that stood out to me was the amazing contributions of past AATFA Entrants turned AATFA Achievers, Lilly Fitzpatrick, Jaye Hensley and James Penrose – all of whom had pieces to show. A great way for the audience to see how far they had come.

Tess Tavener Hanks had a staggering four entries win their way into Nationals and her hard work and creativity was rewarded when she was announced Australia's Young Designer of the Year. Congratulations Tess!

With all the awards given out and Henry off to Central Park to grab a bagel, it was time to take the entrants out for a quick bite. In our case, this was a quick trip to the 24hr kebab place around the corner and then back to YHA and the comfort of our beds.

I thank everyone involved in what is always a rewarding event with often imagined, and yet still unexplored, potential and opportunity.

Jo-anna Egart
AATFA National Coordinator 2012