

2023 APEX AUSTRALIA NATIONAL CONVENTION & AGM - Minutes



Hosted by
Apex Club of Geraldton

5-8th October 2023





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2023 Convention & AGM Minutes

Business Session

1. Welcome

- 1.1. **Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony** performed by Derek Councilor
- 1.2. Attendees welcomed to Geraldton by Lara Dalton MLA, at 9:21 am.
- 1.3. **Convention officially opened** by Niel Sawley, at 9:25 am and attendees welcomed to the 89TH National Convention.
- 1.4. **Ideals of the Association of Apex Clubs of Australia:** led by Mick Godfrey
- 1.5. **One Minute Silence** (to remember those Apexians who have left us) Ideals of the Association of Apex Clubs of Australia
- 1.6. **Charge to the Delegates**

2. Roll Call

2.1. Attendees

National Board Elected Directors

Ben Curnow	2023/2024 National President Elect
Emma Jackson	National Secretary
Tara Spotswood	National Treasurer & Vice President
April Lancaster Smith	National RC Co-ordinator
Tyson Campbell	National Membership & Culture
Daniel Lascelles	National Communications
Gavin Mingay	National Office Manager

National Board Managers

Luke Corkett	RCC Support & Training Manager
Simon Grant	International Relations Manager
Greg Youngberry	Bursary Manager

Regional Communicators

John Davis	1 North QLD
Trevor Simpson	2 Central Coast QLD
Jesse Brinkmann -A	3 South West QLD
Brett Doig	4 South East QLD Northern NSW
Andrew Mellowship	5 NSW North Coast
Luke Corkett	6 NSW South Coast
Elise Malberg -A	7 East Victoria
Tim Glenton	9 West Victoria
Tim Glenton*	10 Tasmania
Leon Budden	11 East SA
Catie Bartholomaeus	12 West SA
Dylan Fryer	13 South WA
Danielle Reed -A	14 North WA

*Tim has agreed to take on an additional region as a non-resident RC



2.2. Proxies

Clubs Present/represented: 55 clubs present out of 84 eligible clubs.

Region	Club	Attendance	Proxy Received	Delegate
1	APEX CLUB OF HERBERT RIVER	No	Yes	RC1 -John Davis
1	APEX CLUB OF MOUNT ISA	Yes	N/A	John Davis
1	APEX CLUB OF TOWNSVILLE INC	No	Yes	RC1 - John Davis
2	APEX CLUB OF BIGGENDEN			
2	APEX CLUB OF BILOELA			
2	APEX CLUB OF BUNDABERG	Yes	N/A	RC2 - Trevor Simpson
2	APEX CLUB OF CAP WEST	No	Yes	RC2 - Trevor Simpson
2	APEX CLUB OF FRASER COAST	No	Yes	RC2 - Trevor Simpson
2	APEX CLUB OF GYMPIE	No	Yes	RC2 - Trevor Simpson
2	APEX CLUB OF MOURA INC			
2	APEX CLUB OF MURGON	No	N/A	RC2 - Trevor Simpson
3	APEX CLUB OF CHINCHILLA	Yes	N/A	Amy Patterson-Kane
3	APEX CLUB OF DALBY	Yes	N/A	Dean Long
3	APEX CLUB OF GOONDIWINDI	Yes	N/A	Jordan Martin
3	APEX CLUB OF INVERELL			
3	APEX CLUB OF ROMA	Yes	N/A	Tyson Campbell
3	APEX CLUB OF SOUTH TOOWOOMBA	Yes	N/A	Bec Kuhn
3	APEX CLUB OF TARA			
3	APEX CLUB OF TOOWOOMBA	Yes	N/A	Jordan Martin
3	APEX CLUB OF WANDOAN			
3	APEX CLUB OF WARIALDA			
4	APEX CLUB OF ALBANY CREEK	No	Yes	RC4 - Brett Doig
4	APEX CLUB OF BRISBANE CITY	Yes	N/A	Gemma Stewart
4	APEX CLUB OF CABOOLTURE	No	Yes	RC4 - Brett Doig
4	APEX CLUB OF MALENY	No	Yes	RC4 - Brett Doig
4	APEX CLUB OF NAMBOUR	No	Yes	RC4 - Brett Doig
4	APEX CLUB OF SOUTHPORT	No	Yes	RC4 - Brett Doig
5	APEX CLUB OF BEROWRA	No	Yes	RC5 - Andrew Mellowship
5	APEX CLUB OF BLACKTOWN	Yes	N/A	Mark Bonello
5	APEX CLUB OF BRAIDWOOD	No	Yes	RC5 - Andrew Mellowship
5	APEX CLUB OF MILTON/ULLADULLA INC	No	Yes	RC5 - Andrew Mellowship
5	APEX CLUB OF WAUCHOPE INC.	No	Yes	RC5 - Andrew Mellowship
6	APEX CLUB OF ALBURY	Yes	N/A	RC6 - Luke Corkett
6	APEX CLUB OF COBRAM/BAROOGA	No	Yes	RC6 - Luke Corkett
6	APEX CLUB OF COROWA	No	Yes	RC6 - Luke Corkett
6	APEX CLUB OF FINLEY			
6	APEX CLUB OF JERILDERIE			



Region	Club	Attendance	Proxy Received	Delegate
6	APEX CLUB OF RUTHERGLEN			
6	APEX CLUB OF SOUTH WAGGA	No	Yes	RC6 - Luke Corkett
6	APEX CLUB OF WODONGA	No	Yes	RC6 - Luke Corkett
7	APEX CLUB OF BAIRNSDALE	No	Yes	RC9 - Tim Glenton
7	APEX CLUB OF DROUIN & WARRAGAL DISTRICT			
7	APEX CLUB OF MANSFIELD			
7	APEX CLUB OF MOE			
7	APEX CLUB OF TRARALGON INC	No	Yes	RC9 - Tim Glenton
7	APEX CLUB OF YARRAM INC			
9	APEX CLUB OF BALLARAT/EUREKA	Yes	N/A	Tim Glenton
9	APEX CLUB OF BEAUFORT	Yes	N/A	Chris Harris
9	APEX CLUB OF ECHUCA/MOAMA	No	Yes	RC9 - Tim Glenton
9	APEX CLUB OF GOROKE INC	No	Yes	RC9 - Tim Glenton
9	APEX CLUB OF HOPPERS CROSSING			
9	APEX CLUB OF HORSHAM INC	No	Yes	RC9 - Tim Glenton
9	APEX CLUB OF WARRACKNABEAL INC			
10	APEX CLUB OF DELORAINE	No	Yes	RC9 - Tim Glenton
10	APEX CLUB OF KINGSBOROUGH			
10	APEX CLUB OF LATROBE			
10	APEX CLUB OF ULVERSTONE	No	Yes	RC9 - Tim Glenton
11	APEX CLUB OF KEITH			
11	APEX CLUB OF LOXTON	No	Yes	RC 11 - Leon Budden
11	APEX CLUB OF NARACOORTE INC	No	Yes	RC 11 - Leon Budden
11	APEX CLUB OF PADTHAWAY	No	Yes	RC 11 - Leon Budden
12	APEX CLUB OF CENTRAL AUSTRALIA			
12	APEX CLUB OF CLARE & DISTRICT	Yes	N/A	RC12 - Catie Bartholomeaus
12	APEX CLUB OF GAWLER	Yes	N/A	Leon Budden
12	APEX CLUB OF JAMESTOWN	No	N/A	RC12 - Catie Bartholomeaus
12	APEX CLUB OF KADINA	Yes	N/A	Neil Sawley
12	APEX CLUB OF KIMBA			
12	APEX CLUB OF MAITLAND			
12	APEX CLUB OF PORT AUGUSTA	No	Yes	RC12 - Catie Bartholomeaus
12	APEX CLUB OF WHYALLA	No	Yes	RC12 - Catie Bartholomeaus
13	APEX CLUB OF ALBANY	No	N/A	Dylan Fryer
13	APEX CLUB OF BUNBURY/KOOMBANA	No	Yes	RC13 - Dylan Fryer
13	APEX CLUB OF BUSSELTON	Yes	N/A	Allen Hingston
13	APEX CLUB OF KATANNING	Yes	N/A	John Paul Collins
13	APEX CLUB OF KOJONUP INC.			



Region	Club	Attendance	Proxy Received	Delegate
13	APEX CLUB OF MANJIMUP	No	Yes	Peter Rann
13	APEX CLUB OF PINGELLY INC.			
14	APEX CLUB OF CORRIGIN			
14	APEX CLUB OF DOWERIN/GOOMALLING			
14	APEX CLUB OF GERALDTON	Yes	N/A	Tom Cox
14	APEX CLUB OF KARRATHA			
14	APEX CLUB OF KUNUNURRA			
14	APEX CLUB OF PERTH			
14	APEX CLUB OF WONGAN HILLS	Yes	N/A	Mel Godfrey

3. Introduction of Guests

3.1. Apologies

Jim Hughes – LG & PNP

Ray Vincent – LG

Gurmeet Singh Chawla – Global Chair

Apexian Kanagarajah - Apex Malaysia National President 2022/2023

Mamhudul Haque Shabu- National President of Apex Bangladesh

4. Appointments

- 1.1. Sergeant at Arms – Mick Godfrey & Ian Curren
- 1.2. Scrutineers – Mark Ballin & Thomas Wehi
- 1.3. Appointment of Timekeeper – Marilyn Lim

5. Announcements

5.1. Fixation of Time Limits

Motion 1A:

“That the following time limits be used during the AGM:

- 4 mins speakers for a motion
- 3 mins speakers against the motion
- 3 mins for a right of reply.
- Up to 4 speakers to speak to the motion.”

Moved: Maleny

Seconded: Mt Isa

Vote: Carried



5.3. Motion to confirm 28 proxies

Motion 1B:

“That the received proxy forms be accepted for the AGM”

Moved: National Board

Seconded: Wongan Hills

Vote: Carried

5.4. Previous Minutes

5.4.1. Confirmation of the Minutes from the 2022 National Convention in Bundaberg

Motion 2:

“That the minutes of the 2022 Apex Australia National AGM be accepted as true and correct.”

Moved: National Board

Seconded: Toowoomba

Vote: Carried

5.4.2. Matters Arising from the previous minutes.

None

6. Presentations

6.1. Apex Foundation – Dale Sawley

The Foundation is the trustee of the Apex service funds and its aim is “To improve the lives of disadvantaged children everywhere”. The Foundation has worked to restructure all its trusts, new website has gone live this week and includes memberships, grant applications and donations.

The Apex Foundation can help clubs with funds to get events off the ground and support causes in your community, please get in touch with our directors or make an application through the website.

This year the Foundation supported Embrace Kids project and Children’s cancer Institute through a PhD candidate in addition to supporting many Apex clubs.

1000 Children enrolled in the program since July this year.

Consider becoming a member of the Foundation both as an individual and as a Club.

6.2. 2024 Apex National Convention 2024 – Bec Abraham

The 2024 Apex Australia National Convention will be held in Toowoomba (at Lake Cooby). There will be a bus from Brisbane to the venue. There will be non-delegate and delegate tours and the price will include accommodation at Lake Cooby where convention will be held. The convention will take place over the second weekend in October 2024.



6.3. National Project – Young Citizen Award – Jordan Martin

The Apex Australia Young Citizen Award is awarded to a male and a female year 12 student who has performed exceptional service to their community through extra-curricular activities. Secondary School Principals nominate candidates, before being shortlisted by a committee. The club will vote on a male and female winner from the shortlist. The winner will be presented with a certificate and a prize of \$200 and two tickets to the club's changeover dinner, at their school's annual award ceremony.

Apex Club of Toowoomba don't currently make a presentation to the school, but it could be incorporated in the future.

6.4. National Project – Apex Community Kindness

Video link: [Community Kindness Proposal.mp4](#)

Milton Ulladulla Community Camp initially raised awareness of issues of bullying in schools and need for an anti-bullying campaign. This led to the creation of a Community Kindness initiative and the Kind Towns Concept. The idea is that each club run 'kindness' events in their town dependent on individual community needs and desire.

Some examples:

Youth mental health first aid training for all coaches in town.

Cooking with Kindness – youth teaming up with local restaurants.

All the ideas come from your town's youth and empowering them to take ownership of this issue.

6.5. 2023 Philippines Overseas Working Party– Craig Martin

In the small Barangay of Atisan, in the Laguna Region, Luzon Island, Philippines a teacher, teachers assistant and 24 children were all going to school under a tin roof awning on the side of the teacher's house.

Apex Australia partnered with the Apex Club of San Pablo and Apex Philippines to purchase the land and construct a school.

The funds (\$28,480.11) were raised by the Overseas Work Party participants with the help of their local Clubs and sponsors. The party then travelled to the Philippines in May 2023 to assist in the last week of construction and attended the official opening of the school.

Participants from Australia were: Craig Martin LM Toowoomba (Team Leader), Simon Grant NP Beaufort, Grant family Bronwyn, Harrison, Matilda and Charlotte, Michael Godfrey PNP LM Wongan Hills, Greg Youngberry NB Toowoomba, Daniel Lascelles NB Kadina, Richard Stokes Beaufort, April Lancaster-Smith Toowoomba South, Elouise Wattie Biggenden, Gemma Stewart Brisbane City, Katie McIver Ballarat.

OWP24 Cambodia – (25th July – 5th August): taking Teacher in a Box to Cambodia in partnership with REACH Siam Reap.

6.6. Bursary – Greg Youngberry

Looking for expressions of interest for joining the Bursary program \$399 a year. New Bursary officer Paul Chiongson. School year starts in August. Program has been going for 47 years.



6.7. Insurance – Ben Curnow

After testing the market, we are continuing to be insured under Aon. Our level of cover has increased, you just need to make sure that you register your events at least 3 months in advance. Please make sure that your assets are listed.

6.8. Cambodia - Teacher in a Box – Kate Huth

Teacherinabox.org.au

7. Introduction of RCs

Presentation of badges and RC pins.

8. Reports

8.1. Presentation of 2022/2023 Apex National Accounts – Ben Curnow

Brett Doig Q – what was the \$8k spent on NB administrative for? Response – that is the cost of our Administration contractor.

Bec Abraham – request that accounts be also presented on a spreadsheet with budget vs actual figures in the future.

Brett Doig Q – the accounts aren't audited yet, can we still vote on them? Response - There is no legal requirement to vote on audited accounts and the motion reads Apex accounts, not audited accounts.

8.2. Immediate Past National President Report 2022/2023 – Simon Grant

Thank you to everyone for your support to continue to improve the Association and setting the way forward. Thank you to Craig & Leon for their support to NB in ensuring our governance is on track. Now the focus is on strategic growth. The 90th celebration was a great recognition of the past, but we need to look to the future and the modern Apex.

Through my attendance at the Malaysian Convention I made some fantastic international connections, and I strongly recommend anyone to attend an international convention if they have the opportunity. Thank you to Jim Hughes for his ongoing support to National Board, and to Tony and Jamie from the Foundation for helping to bring our two associations closer.

8.3. 2023/2024 National President Report – Ben Curnow

We have the opportunity of a lifetime. Attitude and mindset: Apex is in a position that it can thrive, we don't need to 'save it'. 20,000 members in the 80's & 90's sounds great but we don't need 20,000 members to make a difference. As an association we need to focus on the financial viability of Apex. We have some great legacy projects where we raise funds then give it all away to other organisations. Why not think about investing in Apex Charity so that we can run great projects.

As National President I want to focus on membership challenges, are we taking advantage of new migrants coming into our communities and inviting them into our clubs. We need to recruit from our universities and TAFE's, we have a unique organisation, and we are selling 'fellowship' I challenge you to look at your clubs unique selling point. If your



club needs to be reflective of your community, then have the courage to make those changes.

Take the opportunity to travel, Apex gives you the opportunity to travel out of your comfort zone. Focus on what is great about Apex, what Apex is now, drop what we 'should' be doing, consider the needs of young people and modernise Apex and enjoy yourselves.

Sing the brand from the rooftops and live it! Wear your badge with pride.

8.4. 2023/2024 Budget – Tara Spotswood

As tabled on the website.

9. Agenda Items / Motions

9.1. Motion 3 – Endorse the 2023/2024 National Executive and Board

NATIONAL SECRETARY	Emma Jackson	WA
NATIONAL TREASURER (and Vice President)	Tara Spotswood	QLD
NATIONAL RC CO-ORDINATOR	April Lancaster-Smith	QLD
NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP & CULTURE	Tyson Campbell	QLD
NATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS	Daniel Lascelles	SA
NATIONAL OFFICE MANAGER	Gavin Mingay	QLD

Motion 3A:

“That the election of the following directors of The Association of Apex Clubs of Apex Australia (acting as the 2023/2024 Apex Australia National Board) be endorsed”;

Moved: National Board

Seconded: Blacktown

Vote: Carried

Motion 3B:

“That Ben Curnow be confirmed as a Director of The Association of Apex Clubs of Apex Australia and endorsed as 2023/2024 Apex Australia National President”.

Moved: National Board

Seconded: South Toowoomba

Vote: Carried



9.2. Motion 4 – Apex Australia Accounts

Motion 4A:

“That the 2022/2023 Apex Australia accounts be accepted as tabled at the AGM (and as displayed on the Apex Australia website www.apex.org.au/reports)”

Moved: National Board

Seconded: Braidwood

Vote: Carried - South Toowoomba opposed, Albury & Cobram abstained

9.3. Motion 5 – 2023/2024 Apex Australia Budget

Motion 5:

“That the proposed budget for the Apex Association for 2023/2024 be accepted as tabled at the AGM)”

Moved: National Board

Seconded: Ballarat

Vote: Carried, Cobram opposed, Albury & Cap West abstained

9.4. Motion 6 – National Project – Young Citizens Award

Motion 6:

“That the Apex Clubs of Australia accepts the Young Citizen Award project as the 2023/2024 Apex Australia National Project.”

Moved: Toowoomba

Seconded: Dalby

Vote: 32

9.5. Motion 7 National Project – Community Kindness

Motion 6:

“That the Apex Clubs of Australia accepts the Apex Community Kindness project as the 2023/2024 Apex Australia National Project.”

Moved:

Seconded:

Vote: 19 - lost



9.6. Motion 8 - Change to Apex Ideals (Apex Club of Busselton)

Motion 8:

“That subject to Apex Global approval the current ideals listed in the Apex Constitution that read,

4 IDEALS, OBJECTS, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

4.1 The Ideals of the Association are:

To make the ideal of service the basis of all enterprise;

To develop by example a more intelligent and aggressive citizenship;

To provide a means of forming enduring friendship, rendering altruistic service and building better communities;

To promote international understanding and friendship.,

Be changed to now read;

4 IDEALS, OBJECTS, MISSION AND CORE VALUES

4.1 The Ideals of the Association are:

To make the ideal of service the basis of all enterprise;

To develop by example a more intelligent and aggressive citizenship;

To provide a means of forming enduring friendship, rendering altruistic service and building better communities;

To promote cultural understanding and international friendship.”

Moved: Busselton

Seconded: Bunbury

Vote: Lost - 14 in favour, 37 against, Chinchilla, Goondiwindi, Cobram abstained

9.7. Motion 9 – Appointment of Auditor

Motion 9:

“That Jessica Galvin from JG Audit & Assurance be appointed as the 2023/2024 auditor and Synergy Accountants & Business Advisers - Chartered Accountants be appointed as our accountant for 2023/2024.”

Moved: National Board

Seconded: Gawler

Vote: Carried



10. National Award Winners

Award Name	Winner	Club
Convention/AGM Travel Award - The Whopper Gavel		Toowoomba
International Convention Attendance Award	Region 3 – South West QLD	South Toowoomba, Toowoomba & Chinchilla
Citizenship Initiative Award		Busselton
Public Speaking Award	Emma Jones	Geraldton
The Golden Stirrer	Mark Bonello	Blacktown
VIPs	Dale Offszanka	Geraldton
	Verity Offszanka	Geraldton
	Gemma Stewart	Brisbane City
	Swarn Lata Gangwar	Brisbane City
Newsletter Award		South Toowoomba
Publicity Award		Katanning
Service Project Award		Bairnsdale
International Engagement Award – The Kava Bowl		Chinchilla
Public Speaking Award	Emma Jones	Geraldton
Club of the Year		Chinchilla
Best First Year Apexian	Richard Stokes	Beaufort
Young Apexian of the Year	Gemma Stewart	Brisbane City
Apexian of the Year	Peter Rann	Busselton
Regional Communicator of the Year	Brett Doig	Brisbane City

11. Fines Session

11.1. Motion for Donation of Fines Money

Motion 10:

“That the fines money be donated to Royal Flying Doctor Service.”

Moved: Geraldton

Seconded: Chinchilla

Vote: Carried

12. Closing Statement – National President Ben Curnow

Consider Apex's place in the world. Consider the need for active and aggressive citizenship and the need for structured debate around the issues we are facing as citizens of the world. What are our roles and responsibilities as Apexians to our association, our communities and ourselves? Enjoy your time in Apex and make it count. The time is now!

13. Meeting Closure

3:21 pm AWST.