

ISSUE 30 Summer 2017/18

APEXian

News and Views from the clubs of Apex Australia



With many of our Clubs in a Christmas recess, the Apexian would like to share with you just some of the Christmas activities our clubs have undertaken across Australia.

As always, please share this newsletter with everyone in your Club.

Apex would like to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a wonderful 2018. See you in the New Year.



Read on for
just some of
the many
community
activities Apex
Clubs are
undertaking
this Christmas
Season

Fraser Coast - Santa Fair

Held in conjunction with the local Carols in the Park, attendees were treated to delightful renditions of Christmas classics, including Jingle Bells, Silent Night and Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer.

"With generous local support, this year we were able to donate almost \$4500 back into the community thanks to our sponsors and everyone that supports the Santa Fair. On our last meeting for the year we presented community lifestyles agency with \$1500 of hearing equipment for their media room and a new wheelie walker. We also presented Yoorana women's domestic violence and resource centre with a cheque for \$3000."

Kaden Bryant, Club President



Clockwise from above,
details and sponsors
of the Santa Fair; Kids
enjoying the show;
Local Legend EK Currie
presenting the donations;
Action at the Fair.

Kadina - UnitingCare

Kadina Club presented a cheque for \$1,400 to the local branch of UnitingCare earlier this month. \$700 is to go to their Hamper Project and \$700 to the Gift Appeal. Pictured below is Club President Bethany Paterson presenting their donation.



Region 7 - Wishing Well

Region 7 RC Karina Crutch co-ordinated all 7 clubs in her Region to raise money for the K-Mart Wishing Tree.

2 interclub Xmas gatherings took place in Euroa

and Sale. Clubs also supported this with raffles and fines sessions. Each Apex club in the region- Bairnsdale, Yarram, Traralgon, Moe, Warragul/ Drouin, Euroa and Mansfield all have a strong local presence in their communities, and hope the funds raised can support families in need this Christmas.

Pictured bottom right is Regional Communicator for region 7- Karina Crutch, looking up to Jeremy the wishing tree coordinator at the Bairnsdale Kmart store.

Bundaberg - Pageant of Lights

A great family night out for Bundy members and their kids - "Thanks everyone for coming and helping us celebrate Christmas last night with the pageant of lights float.

Shannon Jaye the new car looked great covered in tinsel

A big thank you to our one newest dunk member (this is now his role as an Apex partner - help burn snags and wear the dunk suit) -Matthew Hardgrave

Thank you to all our kids that hi fived 1/2 of the people in Bundy as they lined the streets to enjoy the show", Tara Spotswood.



Central Australia - Icy Pole Treat

Apex's 41st annual Icy Pole Treat went down a treat earlier in December.

Ben Crawford says it best: *"This is the time of good will, Time to stop, time to look, time be with family, time to forgive, and a time to Give this year again I'm kicking off Christmas with 85 volunteers and 23 Apex members on Sunday the 10th."*

I have the privilege of doing my 23rd Icy Pole treat with The Apex Club Of Central Australia, we do this to remember the spirit of giving, those that have been members past & present we keep the Alice Springs Tradition Alive, but most of all kick of the spirit of Christmas for the Children of this community as school ends and the Summer Christmas Break begins. Merry Christmas everyone.



Tamar - Apex Launceston Christmas Parade

More than 1000 people helped bring smiles to faces of the young and old earlier this month as they took part in the APEX Launceston Christmas Parade.

Despite lingering rain, the streets were lined with people eagerly awaiting to see the man in the big red suit. The judging panel chose winners from the entourage of parade floats before Santa made his appearance.

YMCA Launceston was awarded best float Theme Adherence. Larmenier Catholic school was awarded Creativity and Craftsmanship.

The Most Musical award went to St Andrews Caledonian Pipe Band and Prospect Medical Centre's float was chosen as the Mayor's Choice.

Apexian Anita Cox said the parade "went well" in the end. "I had reports from a couple of the floats saying there were good numbers on the streets despite there being threatening rain," she said. "We were up about 10 floats from last year. So we had to rearrange some things at the last minute. There were 43 floats all together."

Tamar Apex thanks everyone for their hard work on the floats, the sponsors and the crowd. Preparations for next year's event will start early in the new year!



Whyalla - Apex Christmas Pageant

Bigger than ever - Entries for the Gupta Family Group Alliance-sponsored Apex pageant have broken through the 60 mark while there will be 40 or more stalls at the After Pageant Fair.

That's more than 30 more floats and markets than we had last year.

Chuck in an overflowing schedule of entertainers and activities at the fair and it all adds up to a huge day for Whyalla.

The entertainment schedule at the fair is that big, it forced Whyalla Apex Club to start the pageant an hour earlier to fit it all in time for the fireworks display at 9.30pm.

"To have 60 or more entries into the pageant is

a huge result and well up from last year when we 46," organiser Damien Trenwith from the Whyalla Apex Club said.

"That's 14 more people and groups that are going to have the time of their lives as part of our great annual pageant and 14 more floats for the thousands that line the route to enjoy."

"Of course, a few significant newbies will be Sanjeev Gupta and his family as they dress up to be a part of the pageant they have so kindly sponsored this year through their GFG Alliance company which now owns our steelworks and mines."

"And, of course, there's Santa as the highlight of the pageant and the fair, he never fails deliver and thrill everyone from young and old."



President Mathew O'Donnell said that in September, the club lost life member John Ray to the illness.

"We all know that MND is an insidious disease, however when a close friend or family member is diagnosed and then

succumbs to the illness, you get an up close and personal reminder of what MND is, and its effect on an individual," Mr O'Donnell said.

He said the Apex Club would combine the profits it made from the Christmas tree sales with proceeds from other fundraising efforts during the next six to nine months, in the hopes of raising at least \$10,000 for MND research.

Details visit hopperscrossingapex.org.au or apexchristmastrees.com.au

Hoppers Crossing - Christmas Trees

Hoppers Crossing Apex Club continues a Christmas tradition this year – selling Christmas trees next month.

The club has been selling fresh pine trees for more than 30 years. This year, the profits from the sale of the trees will go towards the club's Community Grant Program – which makes donations to charitable causes – and also motor neurone disease (MND) research.

From the President

Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas,

The festive season is well and truly upon us

with many Apex activities in full swing already be it Selling prime Christmas Trees in Hoppers Crossing, Santa Fair on the Fraser Coast, the Sleigh run in Alice springs handing out Icy poles to the children or our many end of year Xmas parties for our own clubs.

This is a great opportunity to relax with club members and family and reflect back on what we have been able to achieve in not only our local community but also across the broader Apex picture with ongoing Apex projects with other clubs in Australia and further afield.

My first 6 months at the helm of this great organisation have flown by quickly, the highlights have been the very successful National Convention in October, held at the Apex Camps Mudjimba and hosted by the Fraser Coast Club, Being on hand for the National Finals of the Apex Australia Teenage Fashion Awards in Mandurah Western Australia, and my involvement as a Director on the Board of the Apex Foundation. The Apex Foundation has

made great inroads since the GFC and currently has \$10 Million of assets under management, and a great credit goes to the directors past and present for their current position.

The move of our National Office has been completed and the transition seems to have progressed smoothly, and our Insurance package with AON insurance has been successfully renegotiated to provide ongoing cover for our assets and members.

My role this year has only been possible with the great team I have in not only my fellow directors on the National Board but also our Regional Communicators who are our vital link between the us and the clubs. The information they provide to us and the Office is only as good as they receive from the clubs.

Please ensure your clubs are up to date with the Census Health Checks and Insurance Register. This will ensure that we can provide full coverage and also ensure that we can continue to keep club and membership costs as low as possible.

As some people take this break to reflect on what they have been able to achieve with Apex and the opportunities they have had, I ask that you consider taking the next step within Apex and stand for a position of Regional Communicator or National Board Director and to help not only Apex but to develop your skills and abilities, who knows where it may lead you in Apex or your own life's journey.

I trust that you will all enjoy Christmas with friends and family, and look forward to your continued involvement when clubs resume their work in 2018.

Till then, Yours in Apex

Moses Abraham
National President
Apex Australia



Club News

Kadina

Kadina Memorial School's senior student council members have helped give locals in need a place to sleep.

The student council members, with the Kadina Apex Club, have purchased 20 Backpack Beds and four will be distributed locally through Uniting Country SA.

Students Rosie Daly and Kiara Mercer had the idea to purchase the backpacks which include mosquito netting, mattress and emergency blanket.

Presentation of the Beds is pictured at right.



Geraldton (WA)

Club president Andrea O'Loughlin reports that they were lucky enough to host an Interclub Visit from Roma (Qld) Apexian (and current Apexian of the Year) Tyson Campbell. (Writer's note - is that the definition of going from nowhere to nowhere?)*

"It's a great experience for everyone around the country side visiting other members and clubs and exchanging great ideas about how we can make the association better!!"

Don't forget to send reports on your Inter Club visits to newsletter@apex.org.au.

** (Editor's Note - you can't say that, people will get upset.)*

Bottom right we have Apexian Meja Aldrich, Tyson Campbell from Roma with Andrea O'Loughlin and Emma Jackson from Geraldton.



Bunbury

The 3rd annual Apex Family Fun Day was enjoyed by families and club members (some more than others, Steven!!) last weekend.

The day ran smoothly with market stalls, kids activities and coffees for the grown ups giving the event a relaxed and family-friendly vibe. This year we expanded on the previous party plan only stalls to include local makers and sellers to join in no matter the product. The cake stall, pony rides and the odd appearance of sweaty but happy Dunk completed the day with smiles from all who came through.

The Family Fun Day was run this year to jointly benefit the Club and Legacy with a large percentage of the \$1100 profit to be split between the two.

Thanks to all who painted signs, prepared the Hall, shared the event on social media, baked, bought an ice cream cone and everything in between. Keep an eye out because this event is also set to make a return in 2018.



Manjimup

MANJIMUP Apex Club celebrated a year of change on October 14 and continued the trend when the 62-year-old club made historical appointments to the core board.

For the first time in the club's history, an outgoing president, Steve Walsh, retained his position for a second consecutive year.

"It's an honour to lead this club and stand out the front," Mr Walsh said.

"I'm just the person who stands up the front, the whole club itself is an entity, it's never just one person, it's the people in the club who make the club."

Other historical changes made at the changeover was the 2016/17 vice president not taking on the presidency and the inaugural appointment of a woman, Tari Jeffers, to the secretary position. "We've had the honour in the last 12 months of inducting two female members, which is the first time the club's ever done that," Mr Walsh said.

Ben Wilson was named Club Apexian of the Year.



Bills for Beds

The Apex Foundation have just launched their fundraiser for the Children's Chalet (aka the Magic Castle). More than 25,000 children have experienced the magic of the Apex Magic Castle, and now it's time for the bedding and accomodation areas to be updated.

All donations are tax dedeuctible, and this is a very worthwhile cause for your Clubs and your supporters. For more information contact Apex Foundation Director Jamie Vincent at jimmymullet@bigpond.com.



Bills \$\$ for Beds



The Apex Children's Chalet
The Magic Castle
Keep the Magic Alive

The Children's Chalet (The Magic Castle) has been the jewel of the crown within the Apex Foundation underprivileged children's trust since 1979. The Chalet has helped over 25,000 underprivileged and disabled children from all over Australia by making their dreams come true and having a holiday/ respite in the snow. To keep this DREAM ALIVE, we need your help. Now you can be part of the dream by donating towards this wonderful Apex Icon.

Sponsorship Options

Sponsorship is for a period of 2 financial years – All donations over \$2 are tax deductible

Room \$2000 <small>(Tax Deductable)</small>	\$2000 donation will go towards the upkeep of the bedrooms and heating as heating is very expensive in the alpine region. Help make the child's stay a little more comfortable. This donation will give individual/ club naming rights to the bedroom for 2 years and includes a plaque on the door for all the children and carers to see.
Beds \$395 <small>(Tax Deductable)</small>	\$395 donation will go towards buying and maintaining the beds in the Chalet with much needed new mattress', dooners and pillows. This donation will give you naming rights to individual/ club's very own bed.

Latrobe - Truly Tasmanian Craft Exhibition & Sale

"Truly an Amazing event with Awesome crafts ... Great to be a part of"

"It was our best one yet. With the new marquees out the front this year. I would like to thank all the volunteers for their help. Thank you to the stall holders for making it a great event and a special thank you to all the patrons for supporting us.


We now will have a little break then start getting into organising 2018.

Tammy Jeffrey and the Committee



Apex 40s Rort



 **City of
LAUNCESTON**
2018 Apex 40 RORT



5 days of
“Continuing the Fellowship”

Bookings open May 1st 2017

Rort cost per person is just \$595.00



**Book before November 25th 2017 to get the discounted prices.
Discounted price is \$545.00 per person**

A great price for five full days of comradery and just “Continuing the Fellowship”



Rort Booking:

Bookings open May 1st 2017

Go to the Apex 40 web site for bookings: <http://apex40.com/>

When paying for the Apex40 component of the Rort;

BSB: 034053
Account: 308856
Reference: Please use the last four (4) digits of your telephone number.

Contact details:

Mark Carter	(Leeton)	02 6955 7041	0428 318 736
Bob Ireland	(Melbourne Nor-westerns)	03 9434 2919	0438 135 185
Col Ramsay	(Wynnum Manly)		0419 253 030
Email:	launcestonrort@apex40.com	each of the above persons will get a copy of this email.	

Overseas Bursary Report

Apex has been operating an extremely successful Student Bursary scheme in the Philippines for almost 45 years. It originated 42 years ago by Australian sponsors assisting Filipino scholars to complete high school and University.

As Apexians our commitment to international relationships and developing our youth has meant that this Bursary Scheme has had extremely good support for almost half a century. In 2017 Apex expanded the scheme to Indonesia. Instead of directly sponsoring individual students we are now supporting a volunteer teacher to spend 6 months working in a high school in Mataram, Lombok, Indonesia. The school, SMP20, is on the Southern Side of the Capital city and draws a large percentage of its students from rural farming families.

The teacher will experience living in a local community, learning the local language and culture, whilst teaching English in a school of approximately 500 students and staff. It has been identified that the real benefit is learning pronunciation from a native English speaker. For Indonesians, learning English opens so many opportunities for employment, especially in tourism.

In a practical sense this program will prove the difference between many young children living on the poverty line and having self sustaining decent employment.

We now have teachers lined up for the 2 upcoming semesters of 2018. Your support would be greatly appreciated. Have a look at the full program brochure here:

[www.apex.org.au/userfiles/file/Apex%20Overseas%20Bursary%20Scheme%20Web%20\(1\).pdf](http://www.apex.org.au/userfiles/file/Apex%20Overseas%20Bursary%20Scheme%20Web%20(1).pdf)

Importantly, our student bursary schemes comply fully with the Save The Children policies on keeping families together when providing help - for more information have a look at -

<http://www.rethinkorphanages.org/take-action>



Allen Hingston and his club, Busselton Apex, have been a long time supporter of the new Lombok Bursary Scheme. Pictured above is Allen with 20kg of books. "Many of the students come from rural farming families and learning English is a positive step for the students to get a job and break the poverty cycle," he said.

"In Lombok there is minimal amounts of English books because they are so expensive.

"These books we are sending will make such an amazing difference to the students and boost their English skills with the assistance from our Australian teacher."

Mr Hingston said the books were acquired from school libraries and would otherwise go to landfill.

Outback Postie Bike Ride

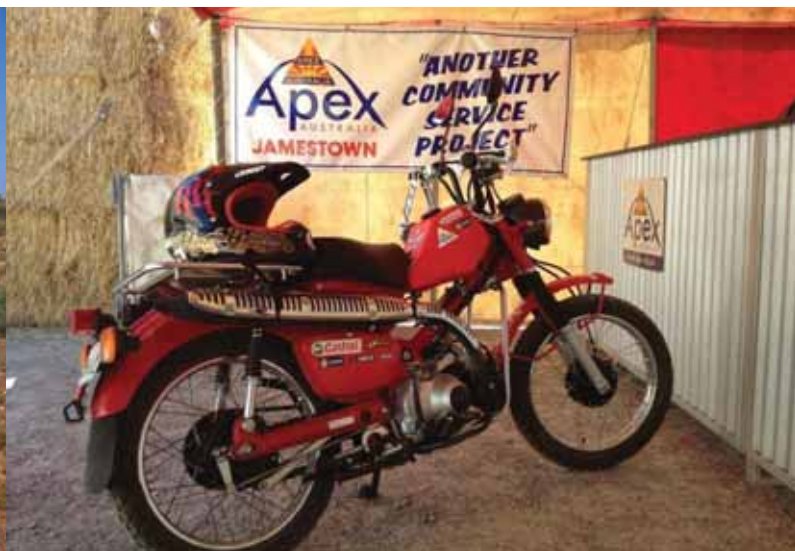
The Copper Coast Retreats is now in it's 3rd year of operation, with the vision to reduce the impact of a cancer diagnosis on South Australian families by providing the opportunity for a holiday in Wallaroo at no cost. The Copper Coast Retreat, a part of Apex Foundation's Apex Underprivileged Children's Trust, aims to provide families with the opportunity to create precious memories they can hold for a lifetime. To date 315 families have enjoyed the Copper Coast Retreat.

The Apex Outback Postie Bike Ride continues to be the funding source of the project. The 2017 ride was enough highly successful event, raising \$105,434, bringing the total funds raised to \$718,382.

A special mention must be made of the outstanding fundraising achievements of Kadina Apexian, Andrew Venning, who not only works tirelessly as on the the long standing Apex Outback Postie Bike Ride committee, but has also raised more than \$84,000 in the last 7 years. His efforts are awe-inspiring.

The feedback and gratitude of families who stay at the Retreat continues to be overwhelming. Following is part of a thank you note recently received -

"We have just spent a beautiful sun filled week at Wallaroo in the Apex Copper Coast Retreat Cabin, within the North Beach Tourist Park. We cannot thank you and your team enough for this very welcome 'breather'. Our family really appreciate that you would understand the need to completely 'get away from it all' for a time and not have to think about anything except where shall we go or what shall we do or not do today. Your team have won our hearts, respect and love for your thoughtfulness. God bless you."



Philippines National Convention

Greetings Fellow Apexians,

The Association of Apex Clubs, Philippines, a non-government, non-profit and a global service organization will be having its 43rd National Convention from May 25-27, 2018 (Friday to Sunday) at Luisa Ridge Hot Spring Resort in Barangay Pansol, Calamba City, Laguna. Apex Club of Los Baños will host the 2018 National Convention and includes, among other activities, the Apex Philippines National Board Meeting, awards night for recognition of Apexians and clubs with exemplary community services, fellowship and a day tour in Pagsanjan Falls and Liliw, Laguna.

We are pleased to invite you to the 2018 Apex Philippines National Convention and we hope you will join us for two-night, three-day of great food and good fun and a few surprises as well.

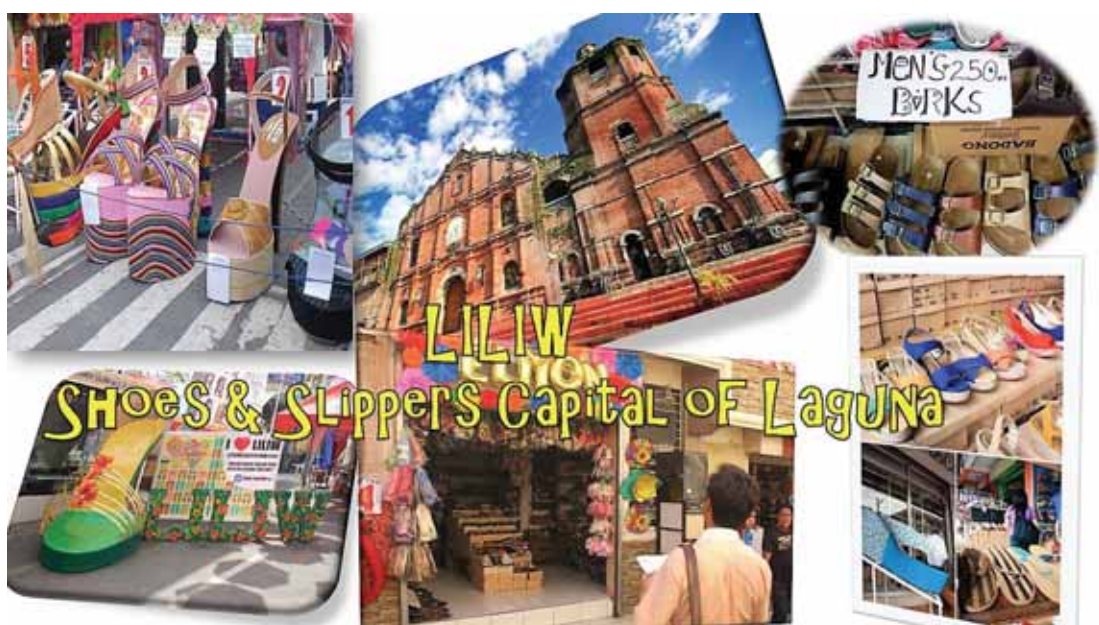
You can download the registration form, convention package and program of activities from <http://www.apex.org.au/club-resources>. Please fill out the registration form and send to apexlosbanos@gmail.com so that we can make adequate arrangements.

Warmest regards.

Sincerely yours,

Apexian Ricardo C. Lapitan
Club President
Apex Club of Los Baños

Rommel M. Tarant
National President
Association of Apex Clubs, Philippines



As acknowledged in Apexian #29, Life Governor and past National President Gilbert 'Tig' Fenton recently past away. Below we are reproducing a page from the Apexian in November 1965, which introduced then Apexians to their new National President.

BUSINESS principal, sailor, Rover scout, Sunday school teacher, yachtsman, Mason, diving coach, violinist with an interest in tennis and squash.

These are some of the activities that have dominated the life—apart from his Apex-activities—of Association president, Tig Thomas.

And to add to all this is his role as husband, father of five and foster-father of a 21-year-old Japanese girl during the current 12 months.

Gilbert Thomas was born in Wagga Wagga in July 1926 and lived there until 1962 when his business interests brought him to Sydney.

He went to school at Wagga at the Wagga Wagga High School where he gained his intermediate certificate. He went to work at the age of 14 with a firm of chartered accountants and studied by correspondence for the exams of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia.

He worked and studied until he turned 18 when he joined the navy (November, 1944).

His navy career lasted for just over two years, and when he was demobilised in January, 1947, he went back to work for the same firm and qualified with the Chartered Institute in October, 1948.

The firm for which he worked—G. P. Turner & Adams—dissolved in 1948 and in July 1949 Tig Thomas went into partnership with Les Adams from the old firm under the name of A. L. Adams and Partners.

Today, Tig Thomas is still in partnership with Les Adams.

In 1948 they purchased a partnership in Narrandera and sold it in 1962.

Narrandera Apex club was born in the office of this business.

In 1958 Tig tackled the examinations of the Local Government Auditors and qualified. He then went into partnership with his old boss, G. P. Turner, in respect of his local government audit practice.

In 1962 they purchased a practice in Sydney known as Warton Thompson and Co. and they have continued to practice in that name.

So now Tig is associated with two practices—one in Wagga and the other in Sydney.

The Wagga practice has a staff of 18 in addition to four senior partners. In Sydney there are seven on the staff in addition to two partners.

Tig is a member of the committee of the Australian Chartered Accountants Research Society (N.S.W. branch) and a member of the sub-committee on Farm Management Accounting.

He is also on the committee of the Local Government Auditors Association (elected 1962).

He was appointed a Justice of the Peace at 24.

Briefly, Tig's Apex history began when he was 21 and he joined the Wagga club in May, 1948. The Wagga club was formed in 1931. He is a past president of Wagga and a life member.

Before he joined Apex he was very active in Rover scouting.

To him scouting was the world of brotherhood and the means of injecting service into the community.

TIG THOMAS

PORTRAIT OF A PRESIDENT

by THE EDITORS



"I had then and I still have a very strong admiration for the scout plan as far as development towards citizenship is concerned," he said.

"When I was in the scouts I didn't think a great deal of Apexians. I thought that they made a lot of noise, that they drank a lot, and this didn't impress me greatly."

But Tig's ideas about Apex were soon to change.

"One day a cove who was very highly regarded by me came up to me in the street and said, 'Tig, I've nominated you for Apex and you've been accepted. Would you like to come along and join?' This fellow, by the way, was Eric Dunn, a past Zone 2 president."

However his heart was still in the Rovers where he was very active.

"I went along because I was asked. I was what is commonly known as a 'knife and forker' and went to service jobs only because it was required of me as a member.

"I attended dinners for about 12 months but I didn't really get with Apex. That is why I'm quite sympathetic to people who take time to cotton on to what it's all about."

Tig said as a person gets along in Apex it's easy for him to forget what it was like when he began.

"I did not stand for the club Board in 1949 so was a floor member until August 1950 when I was nominated and elected to the Board."

Tig became debating and public speaking director, but his term of office was short-lived because in September the newly elected president was transferred to Hay.

Tig was nominated to fill the vacancy and after a close contest he was successful.

The club was very strong, with 45 to 50 members. Wagga has always been a strong club numerically, and Tig was the youngest member on the Board.

"I entered a most interesting period," he said.

"I realised if I was going to do the president's job I would have to learn about Apex, and, brother, did I learn."

"I went to my first convention in Easter 1951—the national at Hobart, and I was a very lonely little boy. One of the Zone 2 delegates wasn't able to attend so I was appointed as a delegate. My first attendance at national convention, and as a delegate."

Since then he has attended every district, zone or association convention that has been held except 1954 in Bunbury (baby Gay was expected), 1959 and 1961. So he has missed only three Association conventions since 1951.

In 1952-53 Tig served as Zone 2 secretary-treasurer and in 1954-55 as Zone president.

He was national treasurer in 1956-57 while John Northey was still national secretary. Both positions were honorary.

Twice Tig was the winner of the Zone 2 public speaking contests and was runner-up in the Association contest at Newcastle.

During Tig's two years as Service Director of Wagga Club (1959-61) they did big things.

A scout hall was erected in six hours and an 18 square pre-school kindergarten was built in nine hours.

In 1961-62 he became club president again.

The following year he became International Relations director and was organising a mutual service project between Colombo and Wagga when he transferred to Sydney.

New Events from Apex in Victoria

Congratulations to Apex Euroa for launching a brand new event, the Euroa Apex Pro Rodeo, to be held on Saturday 24th March 2018.

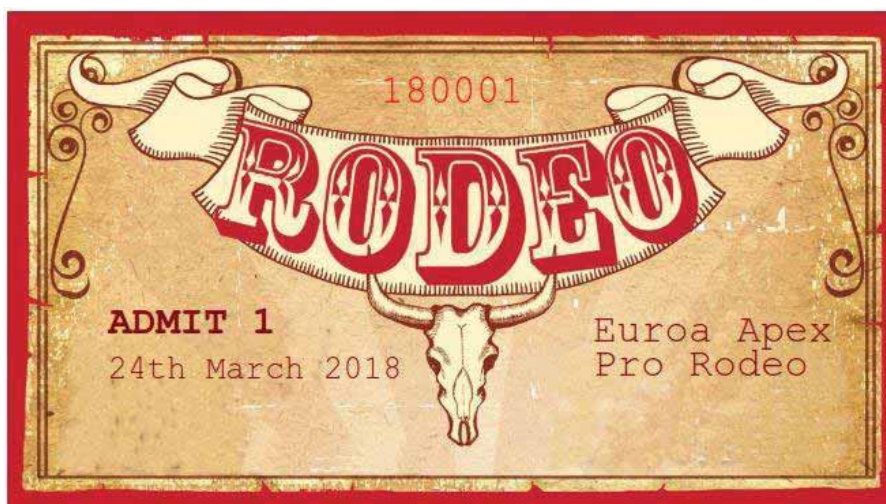
The Rodeo promises to be a huge event for the town of Euroa and will be a great family day out.

You can win 2 tickets to this great event - simply visit <https://www.facebook.com/EuroaRodeo> and like their page, and you can win. Tickets are also on sale at <http://www.trybooking.com/TIZW>

Meanwhile the 5 clubs in the Gippsland have launched their Inaugural Gippsland Car Cruise for Cancer.

Starting in Bairnsdale Friday 2nd March and finishing in Warragul Sunday 4th March 2018. You must provide your own sleeping/camping equipment, all meals and merchandise covered in registration fees. Once registered (\$200 per team of 2, \$300 for a family up to 5 people) it is then up to you to fundraise \$400 per vehicle for full entry. Only 30 places available and must have 2 licensed drivers 18yrs plus- full terms and conditions found on event page.

<https://www.facebook.com/gippslandcarmacruiseforcancer/>



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The Apexian, December 2017 Issue 30

