

ISSUE 36 Christmas 2018

# APEXian

News and Views from the clubs of Apex Australia



*Welcome to a special Christmas edition  
of the Apexian.*





***Welcome to a special Christmas edition of the Apexian.***

***On the following pages are featured just some of the community activities undertaken by our Apex Clubs.***

### ***Apex Whyalla Christmas Pageant***

A total of 40 floats and more than 50 stalls added up to another huge GFG Alliance Whyalla Christmas Pageant and Fair in late November.

The pageant has about 10 new floats this year and 10 more stall-holders to create a fantastic atmosphere at the Ada Ryan Gardens After-Pageant Fair complete with fireworks. There was also a City Plaza Christmas Street Party in Patterson Street after the pageant.

The pageant and fair are organised by the Whyalla Apex Club and Whyalla City Council with generous sponsorship from steelmaker GFG Alliance.

Damien Trenwith, of Apex, said the support from the company was much appreciated to fund the pageant and provide free entertainment and activities for children at the fair. "As a community organisation, it is great to provide something free for the children and community to enjoy," he said.

"We are fortunate to again have the company's support to provide all the entertainment and activities for free. "All you need to do is bring a few dollars if you would like something to eat or drink from any one of the 50 stalls we've got, including the Apex food stall.

*Sean Kelly, left, of sponsor GFG Alliance, and Damien Trenwith, of Whyalla Apex Club, checked out the unicorn float before the Whyalla Christmas Pageant.*





"This event is getting bigger and bigger and we have been busy all week finding spots to put all the extra stalls in." Mr Trenwith said an important part of the pageant and fair was the motorcycle toy run which would start at 4.30pm at the library and finish at the pageant.

People are encouraged to bring a toy and put it in the trailer for those kids in our community less fortunate. The toy run gets lots of fluffy toys so they are asking for a few more toys for older kids such as soccer balls, cricket sets and the like.

GFG Alliance spokesman Sean Kelly said the operator of the steelworks and associated mines was proud to be involved in the pageant and fair for the second year with executive chairman Sanjeev Gupta and his family to again take part.

"Sanjeev and his family really enjoyed last year's event and were impressed with organisation," Mr Kelly said. "He mentioned several times what a good job Apex and council had done in organising it.

Mr Trenwith said there were plenty of spots available along the pageant route, but advised people to come out a bit early to get a good position.

## ***Apex Tamar Christmas Parade (Santa is on page 1!)***

For about the last 40 years, a dedicated group of local Launceston volunteers has been launching the city's Christmas spirit.

Every year, on the last Saturday in November, thousands line the street in a bid to see Santa at the annual Launceston Christmas Parade. From February, the team of six get started on the planning for the event.

Tamar Apex took over the parade about four decades ago, and haven't stopped since. Parade coordinator Cheryl Gabites said the club that hosted the parade before them folded. "One of our now life members brought it to our club and asked if we would be interested in doing it for that one time and we said 'yes'," she said. "Now, we've been doing it ever since."

"All the members have all got little kids, except me, and it's a big and hard thing to pull off. But we get it done," she said

"On the day we do have a lot of other volunteers that come and help us too, which is really good. But the people organising the event is just us basically."

The volunteers take a short break between one parade and the next.

"It's full steam ahead from February. We get started on the planning, the charity, the sponsors, permits and grants and that sort of stuff," Ms Gabites said. "One of the first things we do is get a theme. The from September we really start bringing it together."

The parade has seen plenty of changes over the years, including to the route.

"The route has changed a few times during that time. We had it going from the bottom of George

Street and through the Avenue at one stage,” she said.

“But I think they changed that because it was clashing a lot with the car parks.”

Now with the route – and so many people wanting to be involved – the parade has formerly come to a stand-still. But, this year that issue was addressed.

While the route may sometimes change, one thing doesn’t and that is the joy the parade brings to the children – young and old.

“We find the Christmas Parade is the thing that gets everyone going and in to town and motivated to do their Christmas Shopping,” Ms Gabites said.

“It starts the Christmas cheer for the kids too. They see Santa and they’re all excited and they know that he’s on his way.”

The community service club said organising the parade is all about putting something back in to the community.

The parade is now something families look forward to, and gives memories that last a life time.

“I can remember looking at it when I was a wee, wee little thing. So it’s been going for a while now, and we look forward to it being bigger and better,” Ms Gabites said.



Pictured above, Apex Tamar: organising committee Cheryl Gabites, Claire Gabites, Lauren Makepeace, Warrick Gerrard, and Jess and Antony Gabites.

## *End of Year Message - National President Neal*

Dear Members,

Time since the National Convention has travelled fast, we are now entering December and the Apex year has half past.

Recently the National Board has been busily working towards getting the new Data Base and Club email addresses out to you all. This is an exciting time and something that we all have been waiting a long time for. The Data Base will give Clubs the ability to keep accurate information on their Membership and Assets, which will allow easy access for person milestones (5, 10, 15 and 20 years of service). This same Data Base will allow the National Board to calculate accurate Fee drawdowns and ensure all Clubs are adequately insured at their events (along with their assets).

The next few weeks before Christmas are a time for us all to reflect on what has been achieved in each of our Clubs and by ourselves on personal levels, what we have all gained from being a part of Apex. This is where we need to look ahead to next year and plan out the remainder of the year, to create ways to share this great Association with others. To share the opportunities, lessons learnt and personal development gained by ourselves. We should all try to bring at least one guest along to Apex early in the New Year, just one guest! We all know someone we can bring along, so it's just a matter of asking

(or asking three times and picking them up and taking them along). Use this New Year to create an event that gets your Club Members (past and present) back together, and bring your guest along to hear what Apex has offered those of all ages and backgrounds. Apex needs to be shared, shared so others like us can continue to help 'Apex Build Better Communities'.

In finishing, on behalf of the National Board I would like to wish you all, your families and communities a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. We all know these extended holiday periods can often lead to a time of devastation or loss. Therefore please stay safe this festive season so we can all return in the New Year, to continue to 'Grow, Learn, Make Friends & Have Fun whilst helping others'.

Yours in Apex



Neal Molineaux  
National President  
Apex Australia



## Apex Biggenden Christmas Fair

Biggenden Apex club would like to thank and acknowledge our sponsors for this years Christmas Fair.

Bendigo community Bank (Gin Gin branch).

Ergon Energy

Biggenden Quarry

Dowlings Transport

Biggenden Hardware and Rural

Biggenden Newsagency

North Burnett Regional Council

Os and Clare Blacker

Without the generous support of these businesses and individuals, our fair simply couldn't afford to go ahead.

Apex Fraser Coast also took a road trip out to Biggenden last night along with Bundaberg Apex to help out with Biggenden's Christmas Fair. Fraser Coast and Bundy did what they did best and helped by manning the bbq. It is great to see small towns support their local apex club. It was a fantastic turn out.

Pictured left, Kaden Bryant from Apex Fraser Coast helping out at the Biggenden Apex Fair, left bottom, Christmas is coming in Queensland.



## VENETIAN CARNIVAL FOR INVERELL

Inverell Apex Club, in a letter to Wednesday night's meeting of the Belgravia Progress Association, advised that it was proposed to hold a Venetian Carnival in the Weir pool some time in February.

The club's idea is to invite all local charitable bodies to run stalls in conjunction with the carnival.

Mr. A. H. Sargent (secretary) told the meeting that the Association last year had committed itself to raise some funds for the Poott Memorial playing field.

"If we saw fit, we could run the stall for that effort," he added.

His suggestion was that a sub-committee be appointed.

Mr. W. J. Thorley said the carnival was a good idea and he would not like to see it fall through.

It was decided to leave the organisation in the hands of the executive.

## Apex Inverell Venetian Carnival

One of Inverell's longest running family events, the Venetian Carnival returned on December 1, complete with rides, fireworks and a visit from Santa Claus. (On the previous page is a letter to the editor in the Inverell Times on 11 January, 1952. Page 4 if you're keeping score.)

Twilight markets will join the Campbell Park celebrations this year, along with the usual favourites of ham raffles and chocolate wheels. "It's all looking good. Hopefully we can keep it going and get more stalls in next year," Inverell Apex Club president Patrick Pordage said.

Entry is free, as is tradition, and families were encouraged to bring a picnic blanket and set up near the rotunda to enjoy live music from local duo Long Time Coming from about 5pm.

"You can get as much out of it as you want," Apex member Matthew Verri said. "If you just want to sit down on a picnic blanket and listen to music, we're happy with that. If you want to jump on a ride and eat a dagwood dog and try all afternoon to win a ham, we're also

happy with that. We just want to provide a good afternoon for the community." Once again, Santa will make his entrance in mystery mode of transport at 6.30pm, carrying free bags of lollies for local children. He's visited the carnival by canoe, fire engine and even sky diving in past years, but still has a surprise up his sleeve.

"I've been in the club for 10 years now and this is certainly a new one for me," Patrick said.

"Last year he turned up on a mobility scooter, but he's feeling a bit younger this year!" Matthew said. The ever popular fireworks were back from 8.30pm

"Our reception from that last year, despite being washed out - the people who did stay for the fireworks had a really good show," Patrick said.







## Apex Geraldton Santa

The things we do for Apex .... above are some Geraldton Apex members getting into the Christmas spirit. Apexians are famous for getting involved, and doing crazy things with a smile on their face to help others. Don't forget to post your club's activities to our Facebook page and email a story to [newsletter@apex.org.au](mailto:newsletter@apex.org.au)



## Townsville PJ Foundation

In late November the Apex Club of Townsville sponsored the PJ foundation Townsvilles Christmas Party for the first time, pictured bottom left. This year was the 25th anniversary of the National Children's Days which has brought community groups and service clubs of Townsville together.

## Apex Geraldton Pie Throwing

More than 100 market stalls were scattered throughout the Geraldton CBD on December 6 for Christmas on the Terrace.

A one-stop shop to get shoppers in the festive spirit, the free event transformed Marine Terrace into a hub of celebrations, including live music, entertainment, food and gifts. But there's one stall that attracted the most attention on the night — Apex Geraldton's pie throwing stand.

For a gold coin donation, you can throw a pie at some familiar Geraldton faces, including City of Greater Geraldton mayor Shane Van Styn and Geraldton police officer in charge, Sen. Sgt Brad Bird.

Apex Geraldton president Emma Jackson said money raised would be used by the club for its community services.

"We were trying to think about how we could make this stall more fun," she said.

"Someone mentioned it as a joke and we thought 'that's actually a really fun idea'.

"Surprisingly people were keen ... but it's all for a good cause which helps."

Mr Van Styn said this would be the first time he's copped a pie to the face.





Apex Geraldton member Paul Brown looks mighty satisfied after throwing a cream pie in City of Greater Geraldton Mayor Shane Van Styn's face. People were able to throw pies at Mr Van Styn and other familiar Geraldton faces at Apex's stall at Christmas on the Terrace on December 6.

"The City is always looking for new ways to communicate with constituents," he said.

"There's a number who may feel a pie in the face is a great opportunity. If the recent council meetings are anything to go by, I'm sure some can dig very deep to throw a pie in my face."

### ***Apex South Wagga Meals on Wheels Christmas Dinner***

On December 5 South Wagga took some Meals on Wheels customers out for a special Christmas Dinner, bringing some special Christmas cheer to some very well deserving locals. The club picked them up and dropped them back home again, a great night had by all, especially two special people celebrating their 102nd birthday!





## Apex Echuca Giving Tree

Apex Echuca installed a giving tree in the local Bendigo Bank.

Staff at the bank accepted donations at the Pakenham St branch until December 17 after which they were passed on to Echuca Apex Club to distribute.

Bendigo Bank Echuca customer service officer Ros Beriman said she approached fellow staff member and Apex member Nathan Burrell to see if the group would run a gift distribution. "This is a way we can help the community, people can get a gift card from staff and buy a present for a certain age and bring it in," she said.

"The gift doesn't have to be wrapped but should have a tag saying what age range it's for." But it's a giving tree with a bit of a twist, Ros said they're also collecting for people who may be forgotten in the silly season.

"We're not just collecting gifts for children, there are a lot of adults who will be going without and so we thought why not give them something too?" Ros said.

Bendigo Bank also collected donations of

non-perishable food items to give to Apex.th anniversary of the National Children's Days which has brought community groups and service clubs of Townsville together.

Pictured below is Apexian Nathan Burrell and Bendigo representative Rose Beriman

## Apex Fraser Coast Santa Fair

The Fraser Coast Apex Santa Fair was back for 2018 at the Queens Park in Maryborough. Starting at 2.30pm, it was followed by the Twilight Christmas Markets from 4, with the Annual Christmas Carols at 5.30 and Ergon Energy Fireworks Display to end the night at 8pm.

2 Apex trains, Jumping Castle, face painting and other amusements kept the kids entertained.

The Spin wheel for people to try their luck at \$1 a ticket was a great fundraiser.

In late breaking news they even had a visit from the big man himself!

Page 11 contains a few images from the Santa Fair held by Apex Fraser Coast.









*Bundaberg Christmas Float*





## Traralgon

Apex Traralgon wrapped up 2018 year with the Christmas Raffle drawn at Carol's by Candlelight in Traralgon. The raffle helped various community groups and clubs collectively raise approximately \$16,000! So thank you to each and every one of you who brought tickets to support those groups and us.

We will have our next meeting on the first Monday in February- if you are interested in attending please contact the club.

The winner of the 2018 Christmas Raffle was-

1st Prize \$2000 Hello world voucher provided by Helloworld Travel Traralgon goes to The MacPherson family of Traralgon.

2nd Prize 6 piece outdoor setting from Barbeques Galore Traralgon goes to Margaret McKenzie.

3rd Prize Foodies Pack goes to Kylie McKenny.

4th Prize BBQ from Bunnings Traralgon goes to Eddy Shoo- this prize has been kindly donated back to the club for a future raffle.

All winners have been contacted and will be receiving their prizes in the next few days!





Apex 40 Australia Inc. is not a Service Club, but an organisation formed to foster fellowship among past Apexians and their partners, and to retain the many friendships formed during their Apex years. It also exists to assist Apex, when asked, and not to operate in opposition to Apex. It is open to past members and their partners, and also Ex-World Councilors who have retired from their respective organisations.

Apex 40 are hosting their Annual RORT at Leeton in 2019. For more information visit <https://apex40.com/2019RORT.html>

The Riverina in Southern NSW is always great place to explore and to enjoy.

In 2019 the Apex 40 members will have the chance to discover the food bowl of Australia. An area that is steeped in farming history and is part of the Murrumbidgee Irrigation Area.

So prepare yourself for a taste of country hospitality.

The RORT will run from Fri 3rd May to Mon 6th May 2019.

It will be then be followed by a POST RORT Tour finishing on Friday May 10th.

#### RORT PROGRAM

Thursday (early arrivals)

Registrations open at the Visitors information Centre 1pm to 4pm.

Phone 02 6953 6481 Email: [enquiries@leeton-tourism.com.au](mailto:enquiries@leeton-tourism.com.au)

Friday

Registrations open at the Visitors Information Centre 1pm to 4pm.

Activities available during day include Fivebough Wetlands 1 hour tour, town Art Deco Guided walk, Murrami Rocking Horse Museum

and Murrami Randall Organic Rice cake production. (see web page or booking form for details).

Welcome Social at the Leeton Soldiers Club - Bus pickup from 6pm.

Saturday

8:30am Leeton Town Tour by coach.

Morning tea at the Leeton Visitor Information centre. Travel to Southern Cotton Gin for a guided tour.

Lunch at the Darlington Point Soldiers Club.

Altina Wildlife by horse drawn or motorised cart. An up close and personal experience followed by a cuppa, biscuits and slices. Dust off your Akubra and RM Williams gear and join us for our themed outback night at the Leeton Soldiers Club with great tucker and great music from our bush band.

Sunday

8:30am Coach departs for Narrandera Fisheries for a guided tour of native and endangered species of the Murray Darling Basin river system. Glendale Farm tour and Morning tea by the Murrumbidgee River.

Bus back to Leeton for AGM and lunch.

Dinner will be at the Iconic Roxy Theatre with a live band and dance music from the 40's to the 70's.

Monday

Farewell breakfast at the Leeton Soldiers Club from 7:30am.

Coach departs for Post RORT Tour at 9:30am.





## Date Claimers

**Jan 25-26, 2019 Bangladesh National Convention, Dinajpur**

**Feb 1 to 3, 2019 Indian National Convention, at the KANHA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY, M.P.**

**March 14, 2019 - Looking for all past and present Zone 10 Apexians to attend a reunion on 14th March 2019 in Laurieton NSW. Please contact John Gunn on 65595262; [whitley@bigpond.com](mailto:whitley@bigpond.com) or John Fettell on 65802966; [sales@fettell.com.au](mailto:sales@fettell.com.au). Looking for expressions of interest at this stage final numbers in February**

**May 3-6, 2019 - Apex 40s RORT at Leeton, bookings at <https://apex40.com/2019RORT.html>**

**May 24 to 26, 2019 Philippines National Convention at White Beach, Puerto Galera, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines - see <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AqrrvQQx2JI>**



## The Ideals of Apex

- To make the ideal of service the basis of all enterprise.
- To develop by example a more intelligent and aggressive citizenship.

- To promote a means of forming enduring friendships, rendering altruistic service and building better communities.
- To promote international understanding and friendship.

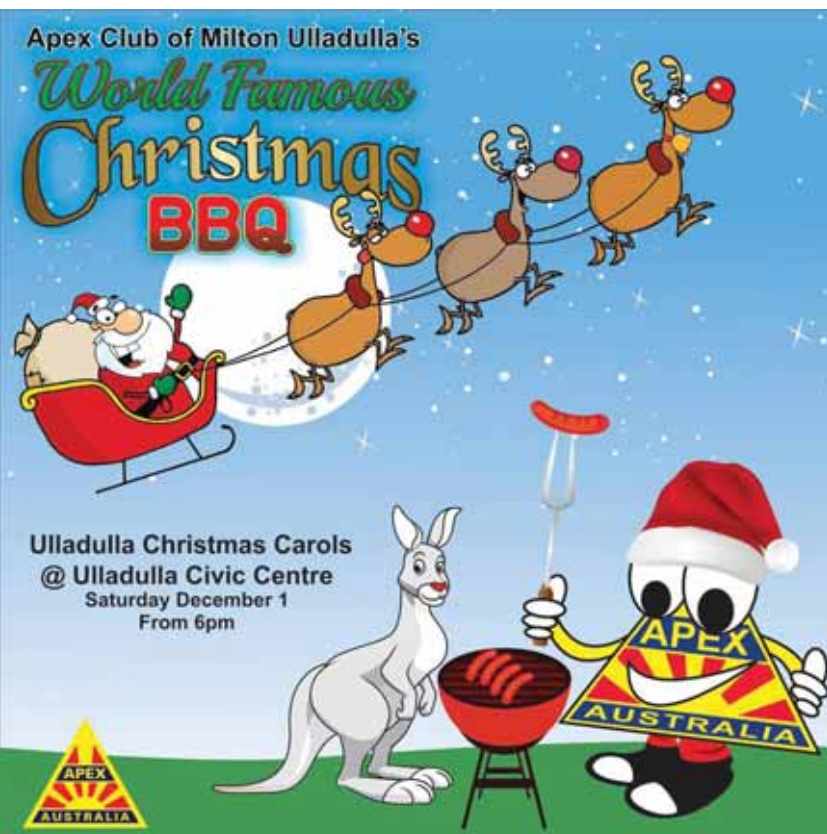


## Apex Milton Ulladulla

Milton Ulladulla Apex was at the Christmas Carols at the Ulladulla Civic Centre, their last BBQ for the year. It was also the first ever Apex Club of Milton Ulladulla "World Famous Christmas BBQ". A great evening of entertainment was had by all, they even let the customer decide where to put the onions!

Centre is the new Apex Club of Milton Ulladulla's Christmas uniform, as modeled by sexy Matt Dell.

At right is the BBQ cranking at the Community Christmas Carols



### SUBSCRIBE TO NEWS

at [Apex.org.au](http://Apex.org.au)

### WEB

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

### MEMBERSHIP

1800 00 APEX

### ADMIN EMAIL

[admin@apex.org.au](mailto:admin@apex.org.au)

### ADMIN QUERIES

07 4697 5303

### FACEBOOK GROUP

[Facebook.com/groups/5286391317](https://www.facebook.com/groups/5286391317)

### FACEBOOK PAGE

[facebook.com/ApexAustraliaClubs/](https://www.facebook.com/ApexAustraliaClubs/)

### MAIL

PO Box 166  
Darling Heights  
Qld Australia 4350

### SUBMIT STORIES

[newsletter@apex.org.au](mailto:newsletter@apex.org.au)

If your club has some news to share please send details to [newsletter@apex.org.au](mailto:newsletter@apex.org.au). Don't forget to share this newsletter with everyone in your Club.

## The Apexian, Christmas 2018 Issue 36

