



ISSUE 45 April 2022

APEXian

News and Views from the clubs of Apex Australia

Our latest Life Governor Mark Ballin



Inducted April 2, 2022



Apex Turns 91

Toowoomba

On Saturday the 2nd of April, 2022, many Apexians from all across the country gathered at the Downs Club in Toowoomba to celebrate the birthday of Apex Australia. It was a great opportunity for Apexians past and present to get together after two years of Covid restrictions and share in the fellowship of being an Apexian. For the first time ever, the night was streamed live on Facebook so others could tune in for the formal proceedings of the night. The night was hosted by National Vice Chair Simon Grant and MC'd by Past National President Wayne Hosier. Current National Awards and Special Projects Director Emma Jackson gave a historical highlights presentation, citing the Bethany Babies program and the Help make a Kid Campaign, two Apex led projects that still continue to make a difference today. She mentioned The Magic Castle and the great achievements by Apexians over the last 40 years in Smiggins Holes, along with all of the other Apex branded facilities. She spoke about the founding of Apex Global and the Impact Apex has overseas.



Emma spoke about how the Apex founders envisaged Apex as “not waiting for a leader, but to take up the challenge and become one”

and how Apex in the 1940's was determined to wipe out Tuberculosis in Australia. This led to the 1948 TB Act being passed in parliament. Apex became one of the strongest campaigners and a leading organisation in the fight against drug trafficking in the 70's, inspired by Griffith Apexian Donald McKay.

Emma left us with a quote from Sir John Buchan in 1981, at the 50th Anniversary of Apex. “As important as cutting hedges, lawns and firewood for pensioners may be, I’ve always believed that there would be more far-reaching benefit for the community at large if Apex functioned as a catalyst. I question whether Apexians in sufficient numbers have served their communities in local government, important committees and members of state and federal parliament. This is the most effective way to prod the authorities into beneficial action. Apex should stand out as a light in the darkness and as an inspiration to all Australians.”

Next, National Vice Chair Simon Grant spoke about the state of Apex Australia currently and the plans for the next few years. “We are in a place of rebuild.” He acknowledged that Apex Australia has tackled some back of house administrative issues and has put many of these issues to bed. This was spearheaded by National Office Manager Craig Martin and National Legal Advisor Leon Budden, who were given thanks for their hard work. Simon spoke about The Rising Stars Initiative, that began in March 2022 as a way to invest in our young people and giving them the necessary skills to be stronger leaders in their

communities and for Apex. Simon addressed the use of social media moving forward and the way that communication is changing. He congratulated Apex clubs on their resilience through Covid and encouraged all clubs to get back into communities and become really active again.

The highlight of the evening was the awarding of Life Governorship to Mark Ballin.

Life Governor Jim Hughes and National Vice Chair Simon Grant had the privilege of presenting Mark with the Award. Mark was surprised and overwhelmed by the award, and tears were shed by many. Mark spoke about how he was honoured to be receiving this award. “Never in my wildest dreams would I think I would have received this.” Those who were there to witness the award were in awe of the amazing achievements of Mark in his Apex life. Jim Hughes spoke about Mark’s contributions since 1977. Mark is still active amongst Apex and currently has a role on the board of Apex camps. On behalf of all Apexians, congratulations to Mark and the entire Ballin family.

Overall, the night was a tremendous success. The fellowship held after the formal proceedings of the night was fantastic with Apexians catching up with old friends and making new ones. Such a great night and we hope to see all Apexians attend the National Convention in Bundaberg on the 7th-10th October 2022. Don’t miss out.

View a video of the night at https://www.facebook.com/ApexAustraliaClubs/videos/5673503846011529/?comment_id=5674930225868891

Mark Ballin’s induction as Life Governor starts from minute 43

APEX PARK / VALOUR PARK

The former Apex Park in Watson, ACT, is the site of the memorial to honour the 76 members of Apex who died in World War 2. Developed in 1961, the park is also home to the Young Farmers Association memorial for the same conflict.

In 2014, an application by the Remembrance Driveway Council to rename the site was successful and it is now known as 'Valour Park'. The Council has also applied to build a third memorial in the park to honour the recipients of the Victoria Cross in the Afghanistan conflict:

Mark Donaldson, Daniel Keighan, Ben Roberts-Smith and Cameron Baird.

The Victoria Cross is the highest award in the Australian Honours Order of Wearing and takes precedence over all other postnominals and Australian orders and decorations.

The intent of renaming the site as Valour Park was to encompass the bravery and courage of the men and women from each association during conflict, including the Australian Defence Force. Each monument will be connected by a common bond in the new name.

The Remembrance Driveway Council is Chaired by a retired Army Brigadier, Mick Burgess, and is a charity registered with the ACNC. The Council's maintains and develops the Remembrance Driveway, its groves, plantings and memorials, including caring for the Victoria Cross Rest Areas along the Sydney to Canberra Freeway.

Established in 1954, the Remembrance Driveway was envisaged as a living shrine, dedicated to the patriotism, heroism and endurance of all those who served as members of the Defence Force. It stretches from Macquarie Place in Sydney and the Australian War Memorial in Canberra and is marked at each end by trees planted by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. The Council comprises volunteers, members of members of the Garden Club of Australia and War Widows Guild,

and is supported by Transport for NSW and Transport Canberra and City Services.

The new memorial at Valour Park was selected through a design competition and submitted for approval. A formal Community Consultation period was conducted in January and the Council is waiting for final approval prior to construction. The memorial will cost around \$500 000 and the Council is currently seeking donations. A site has been established those wishing to donate at

<https://www.remembrancedriveway.org.au/>

It is hoped that the new memorial to the four recipients of the Victoria Cross from the Afghanistan Conflict will attract more visitors to the park. In doing so, they can also learn more about the service of the Apexians and the Young Farmers during their visit.



Afghanistan Victoria Cross Memorial - Valour Park - Watson



Jamestown

The Caltowie Chilled Out and Fired Up Music Festival was back in 2022, with Kingswood and The Delta Riggs headlining on Saturday March 26th. This was the third time the event has been held after Jamestown Apex Club partnered with the festival's small committee to bring this unique event to life in the Southern Flinders Ranges.

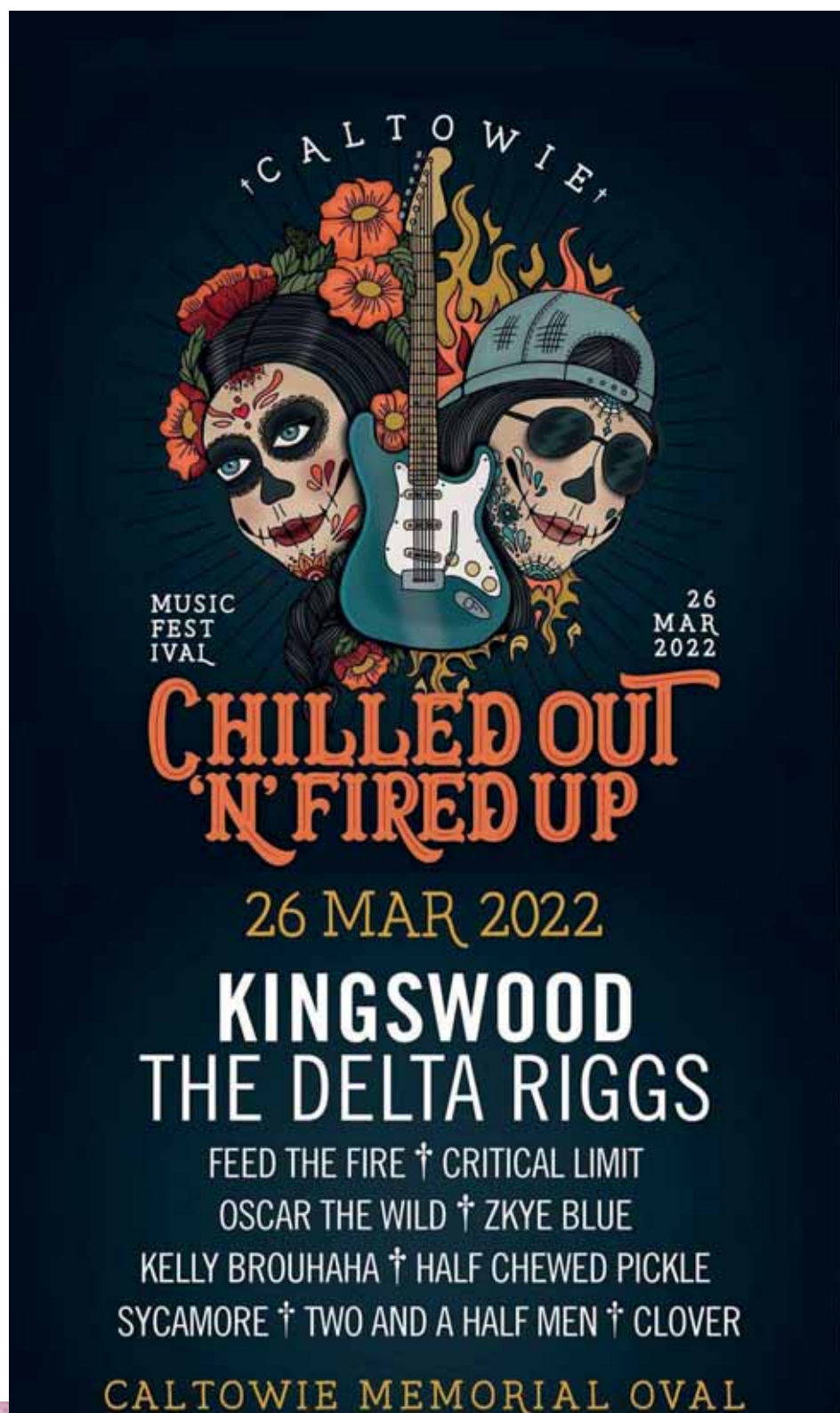
Our primary goal is to raise funds for mental health initiatives within our local region

whilst promoting awareness for mental health and wellbeing. Through our fundraising we have financially assisted our local schools adopt student well-being programs, the formation of a local support group for men, and provided funding for guest speakers such as Mary O'Brien (Are You Bugged Mate?) and for members of the community to undertake mental health first aid training.

In October 2021 the Jamestown Apex Club was awarded the Apex Citizenship Initiative Award at the 2021 Apex National Convention in acknowledgement for the success of the Caltowie Chilled Out and Fired Up Music Festival and the ongoing projects around improving mental health that the festival supports. We were humbled and honoured to receive this award and it reinforces that we really are making an impact in the mental health space, as well as providing a new event for the community to engage in and be proud of.

The event aims to create a unique

gathering of musicians (over 12 hours) while offering a broad range of delicious South Australian food and craft beverages. A real gourmet melting pot in a Covid-safe environment, all in the name of mental health. Attendees can enjoy notable entertainment in the beautifully unique and rural setting of





Caltowie, South Australia, with the opportunity to camp (for free) at the festival site.

Yours In Apex,

Ben Lehmann

President – Jamestown Apex Club

We would love to see as many fellow Apexians share in the weekend!



The Funding Centre

The Funding Centre is Australia's smartest grants database and fundraising website. Start out with their FREE suite of tools and resources to learn about the strength of the seven pillars of fundraising, and get guidance on how to improve your fundraising.

<https://explore.fundingcentre.com.au/tools-resources/fundraising-fundamentals>

Search for grants here: <https://www.fundingcentre.com.au/grant/search>

If you think your club or community group would benefit from a subscription to the grants search please email modod@me.com

South Toowoomba

South Toowoomba Apex Club kicked off 2022 by having a belated Christmas barbeque. We followed this up with an evening of fellowship with the gentlemen of Apex Club of Toowoomba and their guests celebrating their 2000th meeting.

We have commenced our Dinner Meetings for the year. In mid-February, our executive team came together to catch up on some administration (pictured below) and provide mentoring for our newest member. Our March meeting saw us welcoming guests from the Apex Club of Toowoomba and some Prospexians.

Upcoming events for South Toowoomba Apex Club include service work with Lifeline's Bookfest, fundraising through a Bunnings barbeque and fellowship at the Apex Australia's 90th Celebration dinner.

and the is fellowship as all of the club members with one prospect and also a guest to visit Maleny. It started of with having Cheese lunch at Cheese Maleny and catching up with RC Tara Spotswood.

After Lunch most of us decided to go back to Maleny Hotel where we stay the night and have a bit more fellowship as a group from there we decided to get into our evening gear and can I say the ladies looked fabulous and the men looked stunning as well.

We venture from the Maleny Hotel to the Showgrounds on where the event was being held for the night and can I just say the entertainment, food, fellowship was great as everyone was happy to be there and support a Club that has served their local area for 60 years and to see a Club that has had 2 generations involved in one club was a great achievement.



The speakers on the night spoke about how the club was formed doing BBQs, running Raffles, with yearly fishing trips away as well doing many other social and service events.

This club supports many other community clubs in their area. This club has also helped out the local hospital and schools around Maleny as well

send kids away to help develop in there careers in sports and many other things. I personally would like to say congratulations to Maleny Apex Club on there achievements for the past 60 yrs and wish them all the best for the future. This Club is one of a couple strong club in my region 4 area and it shows.

I wish President Mike Weston and the Club every success and looking forward to catching up with them again very soon.

Maleny - 60th Anniversary

It was great to travel with the Brisbane City Apex travel up to Maleny Apex Club 60th celebrations on February 20.

For the first time for a long time the Brisbane City Apex Club decided to travel as a club and visit another Apex Club outside Brisbane.

The Club lived up to one of the ideals in Apex



Maleny's 60th Birthday celebrations. Pictured above are all current members, and at right are the father & son members who have been part of Maleny Apex for generations.



As for Brisbane City Apex Club I am hoping this is the start of something the Club continues to do and travel more as it did have a also time together and has grown from that trip and thanks goes to Denise the Social Director of Brisbane City as well to President Kelly Buchanan for getting the club to travel.

Maybe this is something that every Club need to do as it is part of ideas to Apex - Fellowship. Stay tune for more updates from Regional Communication 4

Regards
Brett Doig
RC Region 4

Apex Foundation

The Mental Health Initiative (MHI)

Earlier this year the Apex Foundation decided to provide funding to Apex Clubs by providing grants for MHI projects in their community.



\$30,000 has been made available and to date almost \$25,000 has been approved.

We congratulate the following six Apex Clubs whose application was successful:

Wongan Hills Apex, WA \$900

to assist in sending students from the local school to attend a Youth Mental Health Forum.

Bairnsdale Apex, Vic \$6,580

for Fun Run promoting mental health in their community

Beaufort Apex, Vic \$3,000

for a co-contribution to a 'train the trainer' program called Mindarama.

Jamestown Apex, SA \$7,000

to fund Mental Health aspects of their Caltowie 'Chilled Down & Fired Up Festival.

Milton Ulladulla Apex, NSW \$7,000

to assist funding of two youth & parent weekend camps. The purpose of the camps is to provide life skills and to prepare students for high schools.

Gawler Apex, SA \$2,100

for "Safe Connections' program run by the Gawler Community Centre.

We also thank our Members and Supporters who so generously gave to this Appeal.

Wauchope

The Apex Club of Wauchope was featured in a great local profile with

<https://www.brilliant-online.com>

"Wauchope APEX has been Building Better Communities for 64 Years in the Hastings Valley.

We spoke with James Wallis, Service Director of Wauchope Apex, to learn about the philosophy behind Apex, its history in Australia and the Wauchope Club's activities in the local community.

James told us Apex is a volunteer community service organisation. Historically for young people over the age of 18, the Club offers active Australians an opportunity to learn more about themselves, gain new skills, make new friends and help those in need.

Apex members work in local clubs across urban, regional and rural Australia to raise awareness about social justice issues, assist the needy in a practical way and contribute resources to causes as varied as cancer research or youth public speaking.

The Apex story starts in March 1931 when three young architects, looking to make a contribution to their local community of Geelong Victoria, decided to create Apex. By Christmas that year, clubs in Albury, Ballarat, Camperdown and Warrnambool had been established.

Over the past seven decades, Apex has chartered more than 1,000 local groups and more than 200,000 younger Australians have learnt key skills whilst making a practical contribution to the common good. Apex's three founders, Ewan Laird, Langham Proud and John Buchan were motivated by a simple creed: citizenship, fellowship and service.

Apex has always shown a preparedness to tackle today's problems without forgetting those issues and social problems that fail to achieve high level publicity or fashionable celebrity support. Looking back in time, we see some remarkable and noteworthy campaigns:



1930s

Truck and radio equipment to help the Royal Flying Doctors Service, the introduction of free milk to Australian schoolchildren pioneered by Apex's 1937 national service scheme and postnatal medical services championed.

1940s

More than 60% of Apex's members serve during the war, succeeded in a compulsory tuberculosis X-Ray testing scheme virtually eradicating the disease in Australia and promoting international volunteer cooperation.

1950s

Supported a civilian widows network, recognised indigenous needs, sponsored postwar migrant community integration and established the first Guide Dogs for the Blind training centre.

1960s

Apexians walked around Australia to raise awareness and funds for Autism, made talking books and other media available to the blind, more than 11,000 new blood donors found and new collection centres established.

1970s

Apex established Foundation 41 at the Royal Womens Hospital Sydney, supported MS education, built the Magic Castle in the Snowy Mountains and established the Robert Stolz Scholarship to the Vienna Conservatorium of Music.

1980s

Supported the creation of the SIDS foundation, funded craniofacial surgery, promoted CPR training and helped raise more than \$4 million for Life Education efforts in primary schools regarding substance abuse.

1990s

Major sponsor of Kids Helpline, took the model of Clean Up Australia to a world audience of more than 6 million volunteers and identified the positive role model of sporting coaches in the Australian community.

2000s

Handed over more than \$1 million to the Westmead Children's Hospital, engaged in multimedia promotion of volunteerism across Australia and forged links with the Surf Life Saving movement on youth education issues.

2010s



Opened the Apex Copper Coast Retreat, for families living with cancer, took the Apex Teenage Fashion Awards national, forged closer links with our neighbours through extended Student Bursary schemes in Philippines and Indonesia. Reignited Apex Global and expanded to Indonesia.

"It was post-Depression. We felt we had jobs, albeit minor ones, and here was an opportunity to do something for young [people] by bringing them together in some form of fellowship and service."

- Sir John Buchan (Apex Founder, award-winning architect and civic leader)

APEX in Australia are celebrating 90 years - how has it lasted so long?

Starting out as an organisation for men between the age of 18 and 40, the age limit was raised to 45 as membership started to decline, then women were inducted to help bolster clubs. Now clubs can vote to raise or remove the upper limit of their own club if they desire.

People are led to help and better their community wherever they can. As a part of a larger organisation, you have access to larger pools of money and people power to get things done.

James encourages others to join. "Being a part of any

community organisation allows you to better your community any way possible. Wauchope Apex wants and needs new members. Anyone interested in joining is welcomed with open arms."

Some of James's fondest Apex memories are Interclub visits to Port Macquarie, Camden Haven and Gloucester to catch up with other clubs and friends he has made over the years via his Apex activities.

He told us, "Camden Haven Apex Club's Train that we used at the Bain Park and Andrews Park Christmas Celebrations in Wauchope, we also took to Gloucester for their street carnival one year, which was a really fulfilling community activity. The kids absolutely loved riding the mini train."

Wauchope Apex contribute in many ways to their local community

The club runs fundraising activities throughout the year and helps out other community organisations when asked. "We are involved with the Beechwood community with the



running of the Beechwood Billycart Classic for many years," James told us. "It's a fun, family event held annually that sees the small country town come to life. It's a fantastic community event with not only the billy cart races, but market stalls, kiddie rides and fundraising activities."

Further activities sees the club running public speaking competitions involving the local schools, every month the club holds what is called 'cash for cans'. This is a great initiative, the community can bring their crushed or uncrushed aluminum cans to the Apex collection site at the Wauchope Showground and they are paid per kilo for the cans.

At Christmas time they usually join in with the Chamber of Commerce Christmas Celebrations in Bain park and run a ham raffle. Funds raised by the club's activities have seen many needed items purchased for the Wauchope Hospital, schools and sporting clubs.

GET INVOLVED

Membership of Ape Wauchope x is open to anyone over the age of 18. Join an Apex Club near you, or support them through your business to help make a difference in the community.

"First you need to attend a few meetings to see what Apex is about. If you decide Apex is for you then we are happy to induct you," James told us. "We meet on the second and fourth Monday of each month at various locations."

Wauchope Apex Club
James Wallis
Ph. 0428 851 334
wauchope@apex.org.au
<https://m.facebook.com/apexclubofwauchope/>

Thanks to
<https://www.brilliant-online.com>

A Note from Moses Abraham

"I have been honoured with the task to write a brief note for the 91st Birthday of Apex Australia, and why is it that we celebrate it on the 10th of March, when in fact the first meeting took place on the 19th of November of the proceeding year. (1930)

The reason behind this has been documented as originally when formed, the organisation was titled the "Young Business Mens Club of Geelong" and after a short evolution, 4 Months later at a dinner meeting on the 10th of March the name was changed to the "Apex Club of Geelong". And that is the reason why this date is celebrated as the Birth of Apex in Australia.

I have had the opportunity to travel to the Birthplace of Apex on several occasions, and was proud to see that the site has been marked with a Brass plaque.

I reminisce that I was told that the location of first meeting to discuss formation of Apex occurred in a Geelong Cafe, and rather ironically when I visited the site, it was now an Internet cafe. It seems that the Café has evolved and moved with the times and is utilising modern technology to suit the needs of our dynamic society. It seems that Apex, and we as Apexian's, must also follow suit to remain relevant to our members and how we support our respective communities in today's ever changing world...

Happy Birthday Apex & Keep Livin' the Dream."



President's Report

22/03/2022

Dear Apexians,

This year has continued to be very challenging due to Covid-19, we at Apex Australia had our AGM via electronic means. Postal voting closed on 27th February and I am happy to report that we had a quorum.

The results of the AGM are as follows:

Motion & Result

1. Accept the minutes of the 2020 AGM
Carried
- 2A. Endorse 2021/2022 National Directors
Carried
- 2B Endorse 2021/2022 National President
Carried
5. Appoint 2021-2022 Auditor Jessica Galvin of JG AUDIT
Carried
6. National Project – Give to keep the Gribbo Spirit Alive
Carried
7. National Project – Bear Cottage
Lost

Thank you to all of the clubs who took the time to vote in the AGM, we need a majority of our clubs to vote for a quorum and we can't carry out our core business without your votes. Congratulations to the 2021-2022 National Board Directors: Secretary Simon Grant, Treasurer Gavin Mingay, RC Coordinator Tara Spotswood, Communications Ben Curnow, Innovation & Awards Emma Jackson. I am humbled to be officially voted in as your National President, it is an absolute honour, a huge responsibility, and a fantastic opportunity to give back to this incredible Association.

The Voting with regards to the audits and financials will be posted to the members shortly. As part of the National Board's review of the operation of the entities that make up the Association, several issues have been discovered which has caused some delay.

We have been very busy in ensuring that our entities are compliant and appropriately registered. Many small issues have been discovered and rectified and whilst they have not major impact to the operation of Apex it has caused some delay. The delay whilst frustrating, is necessary to ensure that our reporting and compliance is of the highest quality.

Yours in Apex,
Adam Stewart
National President 2021-2022
Apex Australia

WE NEED YOU!



NATIONAL BOARD & RC NOMINATIONS OPEN!



Want to have a say in how Apex Australia is run, got some great ideas you want to share with other clubs?

Then this is your chance.

We are recruiting enthusiastic and talented Apexians to fill roles on our National Board and Regional Communicator team.

Applications close 5 pm AEST Thursday the 30th June.

Get all the details from the Apex website
<https://www.apex.org.au/club-resources>

WA CATCH UP

The annual Apex WA State Catch-up was held on the 4th - 7th March in Wongan Hills.

Apexians came from the Geraldton, Bunbury/Koombana, Manjimup, Busselton & Wongan Hills clubs arriving on Friday night and enjoying some fellowship.

Saturday morning, there were training sessions on club executive roles as well as information sharing regarding increasing membership, service & fundraising activities.



We also learnt about TidyHQ, an online management system designed to streamline the administration and management of your club.

In 2021 Apex Australia celebrated 90 years since its inception in Geelong, however due to Covid, Clubs haven't been able to hold large events to celebrate. The weekend allowed us to hold our 90+1 Anniversary and Reunion Luncheon and invite past Apexians from all over WA. During the event we had the pleasure of presenting Michael Godfrey with Life Membership of the Association of Apex Clubs, an award that is certainly well deserved. After lunch some Apexians and kids were lucky to get train rides on the Apex Train.

The evening event was Bingo played at the Civic Centre and attracting many locals as well as the Apexians. There were lots of laughs and



everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

Sunday the group spent a couple of hours at Apex Park tidying up leaf litter and turning over the sand under the playground equipment.

The next activity was a bus trip to the Gravity Discovery Centre near Gingin situated amongst pristine bushland in a worldwide recognised biodiversity hotspot. The GDC is a premier science education centre in Western Australia for Physics and Astronomy, and the only centre in Australia with a focus on Gravity and Cosmology.

We had lunch and then our guide took us to the Leaning Tower. The Tower is an impressive 45m tall steel structure, leaning at an angle of 15 degrees and held in place by 180 Tons of concrete. Those who dared, climbed up the tower and dropped water filled balloons testing Galileo's theory about gravity.

After our trip to the leaning tower, our guide

took us through the centre and explained the exhibits and talked about the latest discoveries in science and technology. In another building, the Cosmology Gallery features multicultural artworks & photographs and a 65m timeline of the history of the universe from the Big Bang right through to the present. It also houses the Niobium Bar, the first Southern Hemisphere Gravitational Wave Detector and a great collection of Aboriginal Art. Another room had a Biodiversity gallery showcasing the rich diversity of plant and animal species in the area, including samples of local wildflowers. The Gingin Observatory is also part of the Gravity Precinct and boasts a fully retractable roof, state of the art telescopes and amazing WA dark sky offering visitors a world class astronomy experience, unfortunately time was an issue so we will have to go back another time to experience the Observatory.



Sunday, we had a night at the "Bowlo" with a BBQ dinner and many enjoying bare foot bowls.

Monday morning the weekend wound up with a "Big Breakfast" at the Caravan Park with everyone saying their farewells and looking forward to catching up at the next event.

Melinda Godfrey

Life Member - Apex Club of Wendouree

Apex Style numbers plates now available in NSW!



An agreement has been reached between Apex Australia and myplates (whom manage NSW vehicle registration plates) and we are now taking orders for **20 plates****act now to avoid missing out on this limited opportunity!**

To not miss out on this limited opportunity, complete the following and email to Past National President Neal Molineaux nealmolineaux@bigpond.com, or take a photo now and text to **0438 016 879**. (Unfortunately existing plates cannot be restyled)

Name: _____

Contact number: _____

Email: _____

What will be your style?

Personalised formats

\$111/yr + style cost

Possible combinations:

Letters first

Numbers first

AA-99-AA

99-AAA

AA-999

99-AAAA

AA-9999

999-AAA

AAA-999

AAA-99A

Custom formats

\$474/yr + style cost

2-6 letters and numbers
(2-5 for motorbike)

No set formats

No separators

Must contain one letter
(excluding the letters I and O)

e.g. **BMW01**

Echuca Moama

George Santos and the Moama Bowling Club have a hard time saying no, at least that is the case when it comes to what most would consider "a worthy cause".

More than a month ago the club announced it would be accepting submissions from community groups interested in having a defibrillator as part of its offering to members. Mr Santos and the club's executive were inspired to make the offering after listening to the story of former Wiggles band member Greg Page, who was saved by a quick-thinking audience member while performing at a community club in NSW.

A nurse in the crowd at a Wiggles performance used the club's defibrillator to revive Mr Page after he suffered an on-stage heart attack.

Almost immediately the club decided to order 10 of the wall-mounted defibrillators and offer them to clubs who were not for profit and could not make the \$2000 investment.

"We received 16 requests and all of those

Echuca Moama Apex Club president Leon Moon (right) with Moama Bowling Club marketing manager George Santos and one of the 16 defibrillators that have been donated to the community not-for-profit organisations.

will be receiving a defibrillator, along with the training on how to use the life-saving device," Mr Santos said.

The 16 groups that have received the defibrillators are: Echuca Moama Apex Club, Cunningham Downs Residents Association, The Echuca Club, Mr Perfect Mental Health Organisation, Echuca Moama Tourism, Bamawm Golf Club, Mathoura Public School, Tongala Football Netball Club, Radio EMFM, St Mary's Parish, Echuca Moama Theatre Company, Echuca SES, Just for Care, Echuca Historical Society, Echuca Moama Cycling Club, and Search and Rescue Echuca Moama.

Corowa

Thirty members of the Apex Club of Corowa put on their walking shoes for the Good Friday Appeal wheelbarrow walk from Corowa to Balldale on Friday. The walk raised \$30,000 for the Good Friday Appeal.

The generosity and compassion of Corowa, Rutherglen and Wahgunyah residents were on full display over the Easter long weekend with the Rutherglen Rumble on Sunday and the Good Friday Appeal blowing away organisers' expectations.

While Corowa Wahgunyah may have fewer than 7000 residents combined, they put themselves on the map last Friday raising over \$100,000 for the Royal Children's Hospital, coming fourth on the Regional Tally Board behind larger centres like Geelong and Ballarat.

Corowa Wahgunyah's incredible tally was also achieved through various





NSW RFS Federation Support crews with Apex Club walkers and Good Friday Appeal area manager Lauren Playford.

fundraising events held over the last six months including a charity golf day, high tea, the annual sheep drive, and the RSL Easter Raffle and further boosted by a generous donation from the Revamp Op Shop and the wonderful efforts of the Apex Club's Club to Pub walk.

Mrs Playford said the final result of \$102,633 was a testament to the generosity of the residents and businesses in the local area and the enthusiasm of all who volunteered their time at the many fundraising events.

"Corowa, Wahgunyah and the surrounding district has always shown exceptional support for the Good Friday Appeal, however this year they have really gone above and

beyond, and the entire community should be incredibly proud of their combined efforts," she said.

"We wish to thank everyone who contributed however they could to this result, which will help so many children in our community receive the world-class health care they need to be able to live their best lives."

The Corowa Wahgunyah Good Friday Appeal committee wish to give special thanks to:

STEP BY STEP: Apex Club of Corowa member, Glen Martin, whose daughter Sophie, 15, was diagnosed with pilocytic astrocytoma, takes the wheelbarrow to raise money for the Good Friday Appeal.



Club News

- *The Corowa Apex Club and the sponsors of their Club to Pub walk, in particular the Balldale Hotel*
- *The many businesses and individuals who volunteered their time and made donations.*

Roma

Had a great time Easter Sunday throwing colours at the Senex Colour Xplosion Power. This was followed by a sneaky Sunday morning beer to celebrate!

Manjimup

The Apex Club of Manjimup has hit a major Milestone of their 1500th dinner meeting due in April 2022.

Located in the Timber town of Manjimup in





the heart of the agricultural food bowl of the Southwest of Western Australia, the club has operated in the area since 19th November 1955.

The Club is also due to relocate to a new premises and have now reside in the rejuvenated Macedonian Hall of Manjimup which has also operated in the local area since construction 5 decades ago.

We provide invaluable service to our community- most notably a 3 course Xmas Lunch for the senior citizens of the local area free of charge. This has been provided since 1973 and has been paid for by the generosity of local citizens through various fundraising activities.}

Steve Walsh
President 2021/22
The Apex Club of Manjimup

Kununurra

Horizon Power has awarded more than \$1 million to 86 applicants as part of its 2021-22 Community Partnerships Program. The WA Government, through Horizon Power's Community Partnerships Program, has awarded more than \$500,000 to 46 community organisations across Western Australia.

Applications were received from a broad range of community groups for the second round

of funding, including sporting associations, arts and cultural groups, women's groups, and animal welfare organisations. Aboriginal Corporations, Chambers of Commerce, tourism organisations and local governments also submitted applications.

Successful applicants include Apex Kununurra for it's highly successful Barra Bash.

Applications for Horizon Power's 2022-23 Program will open in July 2022. For more information, visit

<https://www.horizonpower.com.au/community>

Cobram

Safe Plate Day - Moira Neighbourhood Watch and Cobram Apex Club held a "Safe Plate Day" on Saturday, April 2, in the Woolworths car park in Cobram.

Locals who brought in their car got one-way screws fitted installed as they stop thieves from removing number plates and using them to commit petrol drive-offs and other crimes.

Screws are fitted for a gold coin donation with all proceeds going to Heartkids Victoria.

The RC Roadtrip

On Friday the 25th of March my two sons and I headed north to Rockhampton for a weekend of fellowship and some background work on a few events and projects Capricorn West Apex club have lined up for the near future. Arriving at 9pm and meeting Regional Communicator Coordinator Tara Spottswood at the Club Presidents house (Cassie Newby) we proceeded to have some fellowship and a general itinerary discussion for the weekend.

Local Councilor Grant Mathers had advertised he was going to be in a local Rockhampton park keen to discuss any issues locals may have had and was cooking some sausages free of charge. Since we were the only people who bothered to turn up poor Grant was bombarded with a local club President, an RC and the Regional Communicator Coordinator. As Grant was a guest at the Capricorn West Apex Charter he was very 'impressed' to have a 90 plus minute conversation with Apex Members. Grant Provided great information for the club. And yes I did ask him to join Apex.

Grant listed several community spaces where Apex could utilise in the purpose of a storage shed and club house. Cap West members now have to reply in writing stating they would like to apply for this space that was chosen to be the most beneficial to them. This brick building will make a great club house and has great potential for family fun days and any community event.

Grant has also shared a great fundraising Idea, in short a presentation from a butcher talking about the meat how it can and should be cut etc and then a presentation from a famous Chef on how to prepare and cook the meat. The paying guests are kept hydrated with small buckets of beer (included in ticket price) and the steak is cooked on Baby Webber Q bbq's and the guests have cooked their own steak they then plate it along side salad provided with a condiment and then eaten. This is to be done



in groups to avoid congestion and seems like a great way to spend your Saturday or Sunday lunch time.

After lunch we visited the Wool Shed at Rocky's heritage village. This is a dream location for a function - it has it all, the space the facilities and the atmosphere. This will be a minimal set up for the function and we will have great time on the night. More information will follow once all the elements are locked in place.



Like most Apexians we spend a lot of time volunteering, you will find most Apexians not only are in Apex but also other community Groups. Brian Newby the Secretary of the Capricorn West Apex Club is the team leader for the rescue team at the Rockhampton Speedway. So the afternoon with family and our extended Apex family was spent watching

some fantastic racing and a Qld speedway title. Of course we supported Brian with his busy night as there were some spin outs and accidents.

Sunday morning was spent cooking breakfast and then having an Apex meeting at Brian and Cassie's house. Having the RC and the RCC up for the weekend it was very fitting for a face to face meeting there and then. Big ticket items discussed were the Rum and Rump night. This is the same but different to the Roma Apex Fine Wine and Dine and will have a different demographic purchasing the tickets. This will be a massive opportunity to expose Apex in Rockhampton with the potential of 300 members of the community and Apexians rubbing shoulders enjoying great food and drinks in a social atmosphere and i strongly encourage any club to follow up on this success and see what suits your

and have the excitement and willingness to learn. The main reason for going cold was being scared it was all up to them. Tara Spottswood, Life member Jason Williams and I sat down with these three young men at the 'Settlers' in Biloela and being able to look at them in the eye and say "you have help, we will help you" boosted so much confidence and excitement in them. After 12 months of education these boys will have their mates as members and be achieving great things in their community. We may be teaching them now but I believe they will be teaching us in the future as they will have youth on their side and know what that age group want, they are the future of Apex Australia.

It seemed like I did not do much this weekend but drive around and look at things but talking with Communication director Ben Curnow and listing what we got up to on the

weekend and now writing this report I am proud of our efforts, Roma to Rockhampton is around 5 hours with two young boys, Biloela is 1.5 hours from Rockhampton and it was a four hour drive back to Roma. I only saw two clubs but these two clubs now have a fantastic direction to follow and achieve great heights in Apex and their communities. The seed has been planted now we need to make it rain and watch the crop grow!

Look our Murgon you're next!

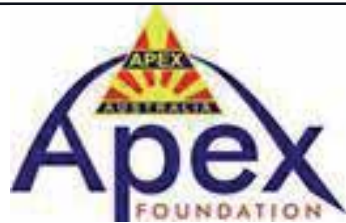


community.

After the meeting in Rockhampton I had organised a meeting with Biloela. This club has the gear and no idea, the funds in the bank, but no members on the ground to run it. After not hearing from the names I was given since the 12th of June 2021 we now have contact with 3 potential members who are all under 24 and have the youth

Yours in Apex

Tyson Campbell
Region 2 communicator
Roma Apex
0428834953
rc2@apex.org.au



The Apex Foundation expresses our deepest sympathy to all affected by these recent & continuing floods in our communities.

Our history at the Apex Foundation has been to improve the lives of children with special needs, and again Our Mission here is to continue to support children & families with special needs that have been affected by these devastating floods.

If someone in your community would benefit from Our Mission here at the Apex Foundation, please contact us for support & continue to help each other to stay safe.

info@apexfoundation.org.au

<https://www.apexfoundation.org.au/>

The Magic Castle

Hope you are all doing well and staying safe, what a crazy couple of years we have had with lock downs and restrictions from state to state. It's funny with everything going on in the world us Apexians still make things happen. A world-wide pandemic may have closed the doors to the Magic Castle but it didn't stop the dedication and passion of many Apexians that have worked on the Magic Castle during this time. In saying this I would like to thank everyone who has given up their time to make the Chalet a better place.

The Magic Castle finally has the Magic Castle Dunk installed, this was kindly donated by The Apex Club of Blacktown.

The installation was completed by the Apex Club of South Wagga and it has been installed to stand the test of time. Thank you to South Wagga Apex Club for your continued

support.

Another successful work party was completed at the Apex Magic Castle by the members of the Apex Club of South Wagga in early January 2022 where Members replaced the games room floor coverings (and what a difference it made) and attended to some adjustments to doors and signage.

They were also lucky enough to have Life Member Geoff Molineaux and his wife Roslyn (past Member of Adelong Apex) attend and assist in the maintenance work. It was great to hear some of the stories of when the Adelong Apex Club used to attend in early January each year to undertake maintenance. Geoff is the father of past NP Neal and was at the opening of the Magic Castle back in 1979, thank you Geoff and Roslyn it's great to have such dedicated Life members of Apex.

Big thanks to Choices Flooring Wagga for their continued assistance to the Chalet and support

MAGIC CASTLE

of our Magical asset to ensure we can Keep the Magic alive for so many more disadvantaged children. Well done to all involved and looking forward to the next maintenance trip by the South Wagga club who are always working hard.

We had a second work party in late January 2022 with a few Apexians not been able to attend due to COVID which is always disappointing. We were lucky enough to have life member of Port Macquarie John Fettel and his wife Margaret attend and help lead the work party along with members from the Chalet committee. The Apexian of the Year Elise Malberg lent a hand on the paint brushes, this was Elise's 4th trip to the chalet demonstrating why she is Apexian of the Year.

We also had the privilege of having National Board director Ben Cunnow attend and get his hands dirty and paint some Jasper paint, after speaking to Ben I think he will be back to assist in future work parties. The team got a great

deal achieved with such a small group, minor repairs, lots of painting, roof and chimney repairs and general cleaning.

Hopefully next year's work party will be Covid and Bush fire free so we can enjoy some good old fashion Apex fellowship as well as getting our hands dirty and making the Magic Castle an even more magical place for years to come.

On behalf of the Apex Foundation, The Chalet Committee and all the children that will enjoy the Magical Castle we thank you all and hope to see as many new faces next January, because believe me when I say once you have been once you will never forget your time at the Magic Castle.

KEEPING THE MAGIC ALIVE

Jamie Vincent (Foundation vice chairman)



President's Report *Julie Primmer,* *Sunraysia. Vic.*

After 3 years as President (an extra year due to Covid and a missed AGM) this will be my last report for Roaring 40's as President. It has been a totally different term to what I had envisaged, but these reasons have been covered in previous reports.

I have spent a couple of weeks this last month with the other members of the Darwin roort organising team, David and Gayl, finalising arrangements. We had planned to do this in Darwin but on local advice re Covid we did it from their home in Murwillumbah. This just happened to have been planned for what turned out to be 3 days after the floods there. Fortunately, they were not personally affected but were helping friends whose business had been totally inundated. The devastation around the town

and area though was absolutely awful.

We spent days going over programs, timing and talking to our various suppliers. After this we are doubly sure that we have it right and a wonderful time awaits us there. We do feel for some of our members who have had to pull out due to the fact that almost all venues require people to have had vaccinations to enter the premises.

I wish you all a happy Easter and hope that you are now being able to visit family. Some members I will see in Darwin next month, stay safe everyone.

Yours in Apex 40,
Julie



RFDS Darwin, the venue for our Annual General Meeting.



2023 PORT - a TASTE of the HUNTER

Swansea NSW 7th May to 11th May 2023

Apex History



Chinchilla

Pictured above are the first 12 presidents of the Apex Club of Chinchilla No. 0295.

Doug Garner, Peter Jeffery, Royce Allan, Wally Anderson, Rod Matheson, Allan Hubbard, Brian Littleproud, Jim Ryan, Arthur Squire, Col Taylor, Darryl Cunningham, Bob Phillips.

The Apex Club of Chinchilla has a proud history of never repeating a President. The club has been around for 62 years and has

had 62 different Presidents.

National

In the 1960's Apex adopted a number of resolutions and national projects to support immigration and form stronger ties with other nations.

Supporting migrants to find accommodation and employment in Australia, it was proven time and again that friendly aid offered at the time of arrival, helped new migrants settle in, and greatly enriched Apex clubs.

The Orient liner Orontes, carrying 457 British migrants nominated by



Australian Apex Clubs, arrived at Fremantle on April 24, 1960.

Pictured on the previous page is the Perth Apex Club entertaining a party of migrants at a barbecue lunch. Left to right are: Mr Eddie Parsons, Australian Director of "Operation Sealift"; Mr Alan Thompson; Mrs R Rosenthal; Mr Ralph Bauer, president of the National Association of Apex Clubs; Malcolm Thompson.

Source: National Archives of Australia

Murgon

Vale Jim Kingston OAM

By profession, Jim was a barber but he was more commonly known for his many voluntary community roles with service and sporting clubs and Murgon RSL over a period spanning more than 60 years. Jim's community service began when he joined the Murgon Apex Club in 1957 as a 22-year-old, where he quickly took an active role in its annual fundraising drives for charity.

During his 18 years with Apex he raised funds for Cerebral Palsy, Guide Dogs for the Blind and the Red Cross Blood Bank. He also oversaw the operations of the Blood Bank in Murgon for 10 years, was Murgon Apex Club president for a year, and was awarded life membership of the group when he reached Apex's compulsory retirement age of 40 in 1975. He then went on to run the annual

appeal for the Spastic Centre in Murgon for six years, and helped organise monthly community dances at Redgate and Cloyna.

However, his greatest individual achievements were probably in his roles with the National Servicemen's Association of Australia and the RSL of Australia.

Jim was called up for compulsory National Service on April 26, 1954, and completed his training at the Greenbank Army Camp, where he graduated as a private. Jim was also the inaugural treasurer for the Australian National Servicemen's Association (ANSA) when that organisation started at Coffs Harbour in 2000.

In 1999, he was appointed chairman of the Homes Committee and held this position for 17 years until 2016, when he resigned due to failing health. During this period he successfully campaigned to have four villas constructed to house returned service personnel, and he remained Patron of the Murgon RSL Sub-Branch until his death.

In 2014 – as president of Murgon RSL – Jim was part of a delegation invited to Holland to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the



death of Murgon-born Flight Sergeant Patrick Tiernan and his air crew, whose plane was shot down over the Dutch village of Dodewaard during WWII. Tiernan and his crew mates were buried by local residents who have tended their graves ever since.

Jim was awarded the National Service Medal and the Australian Defence Medal, and went on to be awarded an Order of Australia Medal in the 2018 Australia Day Honours. He is survived by his wife Evelyn and children Tanya, Vicki, Howard and Bradley.

Forbes

March saw more than 50 ex-Apexians and partners gather in Forbes for a long-awaited reunion. The 2022 Zone Nine Reunion, comprising originally some 50 clubs from Bondi to Bourke, is usually held every two or three years but had been postponed twice because of COVID concerns. It was originally planned for October 2020 in Forbes.

There was a welcome get together and meal on Friday night at Club Forbes and then, on Saturday, the infamous "McGill Mystery Tour" which was so popular that two buses had to be organised to transport people to the various places. First stop was Varanus (the goanna sculpture) for a group photograph, then on to McFeeters Motor Museum where the fascinating

guided tour by Bill and Jan concluded with delicious coffee, tea and cake provided by Larz's Coffee Fix.

The "mystery" tour concluded with "bubbles, beer and canapes" in the garden of Peter and Heather Moore beside beautiful Lake Forbes. That evening there was a semi-formal dinner with lots of laughter and entertainment.

Apex Forbes was a service club chartered in 1950 and over the next 45 years fostered the personal development of hundreds of young men, many of whom are now leaders in the community.

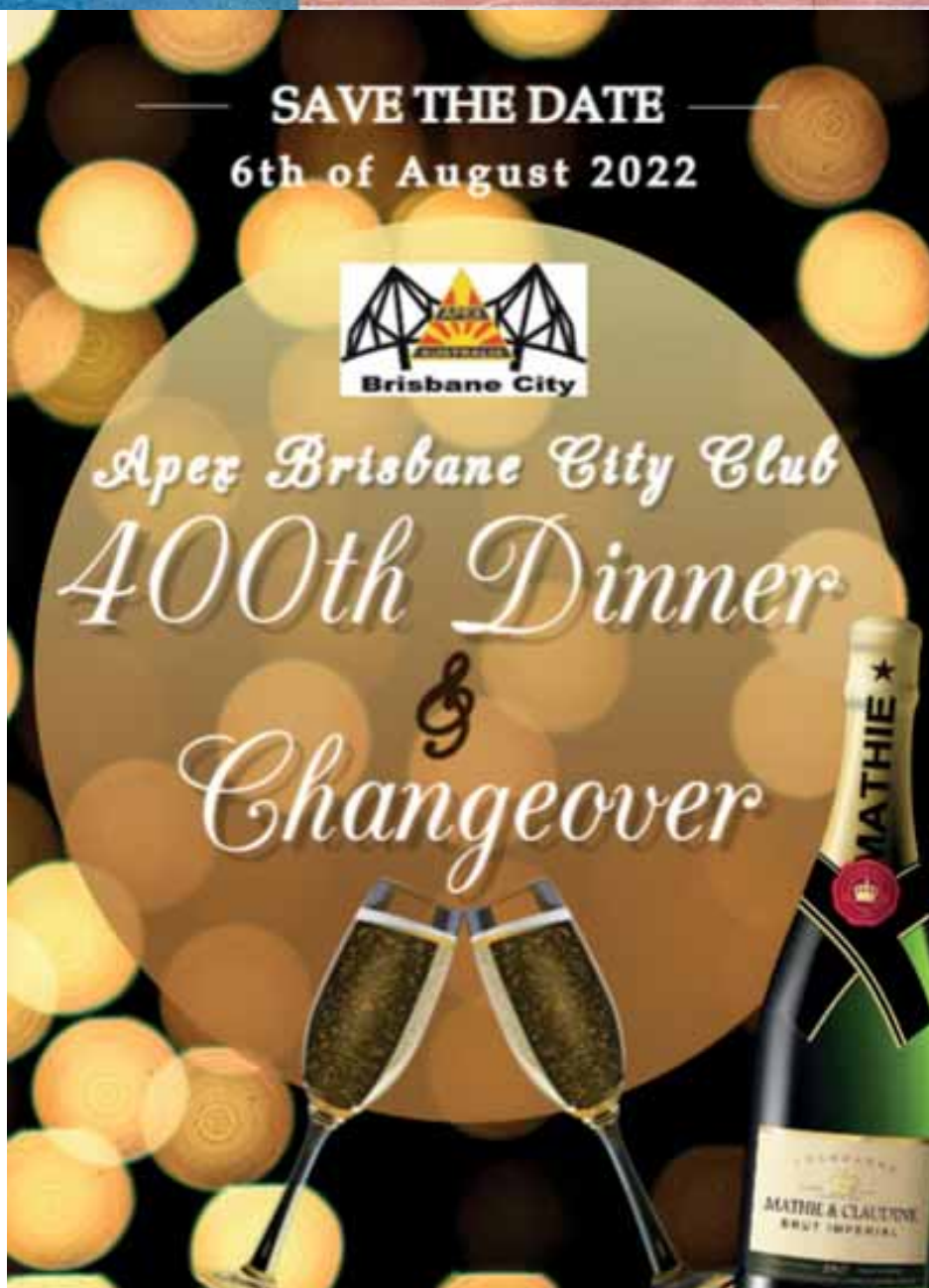
The club also produced one National President, two Zone Presidents and several District Governors. National President was Alan Musgrave who was Zone President before that. Peter Moore was also Zone Nine President looking after 50 clubs in the Zone.

Many thousands of dollars were raised to be used in projects nationally, regionally and in Forbes.

Two of the legacies of Forbes Apex Club that can be seen in Forbes are Apex Lakeside Park, which has free barbecues and children's play facilities and Forbes Apex Riverside Tourist Park, which was created and maintained by the members with profits returned to the community through those years.

Planning is already underway for the next reunion which will probably be held in October 2024, somewhere in the old Zone Nine territory.





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

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