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# THE APEXIAN

Spring Edition 1999

Volume 67 Issue No 3



**EWEN LAIRD, C.B.E. 1906 - 1999**  
**CO-FOUNDER OF APEX**

*"The legacy of the Founders of Apex Australia may never be truly recognised but will certainly be written into the history books and etched on many peoples minds for decades to come"*

**GROW • LEARN • MAKE FRIENDS • HAVE FUN**

# Cover Story

## END OF AN ERA

### FOUNDERS LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY

On Sunday 18 July the last surviving Founder of our Association, Ewen Laird, died after a long illness. Ewen was aged 92. A private family service was held on July 23 with a public Memorial Service, a thanksgiving service for the life of Ewen Laird, held later that day in Newtown, Geelong. As you would expect, many kind things were said about the contribution that Ewen Laird had made to Australia and to the lives of those fortunate enough to have met him during his incredible life and to those who have been fortunate enough to have been touched by the "magic" of Apex.

Amongst the many significant characteristics that Ewen Laird possessed were a commitment to the architectural profession in Victoria and Australia; a commitment to his community as a Founder of Apex; an active Rotarian; a Company Director of a Geelong public utility; a school Council member for 37 years; President and Life Member of the Geelong Art Gallery; member of the Geelong Hospital Gala Board and a Life Governor; and as an elder of the Presbyterian Church.

**Ewen was strongly committed to the role of the family in Australian society and the contribution that each of the organisations to which he was a participant could make to ensuring the security of family life in his local community, and throughout Australia.**

The Memorial Service was attended by Apex Life Governors Tom Chapman, Ken Slatter and Andrew Phillips; National President Mark Fishwick; National Vice President Steve Gribbin; New South Wales State President Ollie Dowd; Victorian State President Michael Toner; Western Aus-

tralian State President Trevor Robinson; South Australia/Northern Territory State President Bryan Whitehorn; past National Presidents Doug Cameron and Mike Neville; and past Apexians from the local area and from Melbourne. Eulogies were delivered by friends of Ewen and his family and, in particular, the eulogy on Ewen's "community service life" was delivered by Bruce Adams, a past member of Geelong Apex Club. The eulogy just about says it all about the thoughts that those who knew Ewen had for him as a person, and as one of the Founders of Apex Australia.

"I little thought, when I joined the Apex Club of Geelong nearly 50 years ago, that today I would be speaking to you about a man who, in his own lifetime, became a legend in the annals of the Apex movement and I stand here deeply conscious of what an honour this is. Most of you will be aware that Apex started here in Geelong in 1931. The Founders were 3 young men, John Buchan, Langham Proud and Ewen Laird, architects who worked together in the same office and were of the same opinion that something had to be done to help lift young men out of the prevailing spirit of hopelessness that the Great Depression of the '30's had brought about.

There is a story that one day the three were discussing the possibility of forming some sought of Club, and asked a young lady secretary in the office named Effie Cant for details of a young women's Club of which she was a member – only to receive the reply "keep out of our affairs, go and form your own Club!" – which they subsequently did. Effie later became Mrs. Ewen Laird, and would

have become much more involved in "his" Club than she had thought possible at the time.

The new Club was first called the Young Business Men's Club, but in March 1931 the name "Apex" was adopted, with a badge designed by Ewen Laird, having three equal sides representing fellowship and service, resting on a base of citizenship. In 2 months the fundamental direction of the Club had been thrashed out, a Constitution adopted and Officers elected.

At this point I think it would be worthwhile to read to you the "Aims and Objects" of the new Club, as an illustration of the high standards our first Apexians set for themselves and for the future generations of Apexians:

- To develop by precept and example a more intelligent, aggressive and serviceable citizenship;
- To provide a practical means of forming enduring friendships, and of rendering altruistic service, and of building better communities;
- To foster International Fellowship by establishing contacts with youth in other lands.

The new Club was an instant success, and attracted members such as [later Sir] Roy Fidge, Eric Hooper, Jack Kroger and Roy Birdsey, who contributed greatly to the early development of Apex and who, in later years, went on to become community leaders in many fields.

The Rotary Club of Geelong had given the newly formed Apex Club great assistance and encouragement, and within 2 months had

*(Continued on page 3)*

(Continued from page 2)

facilitated a meeting of like-minded young men in Ballarat, where a 2<sup>nd</sup> Club was soon formed. Ewen often told the story of how he and John Buchan had to pressure a reluctant parent to loan a vehicle to enable the Geelong representatives to get to the Ballarat meeting to talk about their new Club – nobody in Apex owned a vehicle at the time!

The Apex movement quickly spread – initially with a lot of help from Rotary, then through the efforts of each Club. By the onset of World War II, there were 1,500 members in 40 Clubs, organised into a national body and supporting a quarterly magazine. During this time John Buchan and Ewen had been overseas on study trips, had made contact with other young men's service organisations with a view to forming a worldwide organisation in the future. Also, during this time Ewen and John Buchan slipped into the roles they would play in Apex for the rest of their lives – John as the high level speaker, organiser and ideas man, Ewen as the grass-roots communicator, encourager, enthuser.

Apex survived the war years, although most Clubs lost up to half their number to the Services, but with the cessation of hostilities, numbers quickly grew with 100

Clubs by 1955, 500 in 1967, and a staggering 800 Clubs with 17,000 members in 1979. By then, and up to the present time Apex had enthused thousands, perhaps hundreds of thousands, young men and, recently, young women, to undertake community projects at all levels, forming lifelong friendships in the process, and help to equip them to go on after Apex to take on many varied roles in community organisations. The work of Apexians has touched many, many thousands of people in hundreds of communities. Virtually every town will have some facility – playground, park, swimming pool, kindergarten, provided by it's local Apex Club and nationally dozens of projects have been completed for the benefit of Australians in general – **not bad for an idea 3 young men hatched up in their office tea-break!**

Ewen continued to put the Ideals of Apex into practice for the rest of his life. As well as his on-going support for Apex, he joined Rotary [was President of the Geelong Rotary Club in 1973-74, and was awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship in 1987, and was an enthusiastic Rotarian up until 3 or 4 months before his death].

Other community involvement that Ewen had was with:

- Geelong Gas Company as a Director

- Council Member of Morongo Girls College for 37 years
- President and Life Member of the Geelong Art Gallery
- Member of the Geelong Hospital Gala Board and Life Governor 1989
- Elder of the Presbyterian Church.

As well as these commitments, Ewen threw his whole support behind Apex, always making himself available for Annual Dinners, Conferences, Charter Nights – he would travel almost anywhere for Apex, and was just as happy talking with and encouraging newer members, as he was at the head table in the role of Guest Speaker and Guest of Honour.

Generations of Apexians will remember Ewen for his ability to inspire and encourage, his enthusiasm was magnetic, and his on-going commitments from 1931 for almost another 70 years marks him as a man apart in the annals of the Association of Apex Clubs of Australia.

We gather here today to pay our respects to the memory of Ewen Campbell Laird – I know you will join me in your hearts in saying,

**“Ewen Laird – architect, citizen, Rotarian, Apexian –**

**WELL DONE!”**

*Ewen Laird, C. B. E.. - 1906 - 1999*

## DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION 29TH OCTOBER, 1999

Apex is an organisation open to all persons both male and female between the age of 18 and 45 years. Apex also fosters Youth Clubs in selected communities for young Australians. It is a community service organisation that promotes aggressive citizenship. Apex enables its members to **Grow\*Learn\*Make Friends\*Have Fun** while doing valuable work for their many communities.

**SUBMIT ARTICLES FOR “THE APEXIAN” TO:**

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Andrew Phillips  
Executive Director

### In the Summer Edition:

- [Delayed] Launch of “Apex Aussie Heroe Award” [delayed by the Spring Cover Story]
- More information from National Convention – including speech of Zonta International President-Elect Mary Magee at Opening
- Information on beneficiary of current Apex Australia Scheme – The Apex Foundation
- Apex partnership with Kids HelpLine – “Apex Peer Skills/Being There” Project and how it benefits your community
- **AND YOUR CLUB'S STORY AND PHOTOGRAPHS?**



Welcome to a new Apex Year!

I certainly hope that the trust you have placed in me for the coming year will be justly rewarded, and I most sincerely and humbly thank all our members for affording me the very great honour of serving as your National President.

The new Association Board have assumed their roles, and we will continue to work on from the sound position left by Mike Neville and his Board.

Now that the National Convention has been and gone, we are entering a critical time for really making sure that the decisions taken by the Delegates are fully enacted. All of the Standing Committee Chairs have objectives for the

year that, hopefully, will see us capitalise on the decisions made by delegates.

Now that the upper age has been increased to 45, it is important that you know how this will be implemented as regards those who have recently retired from Apex. All those members who would have retired on 30th June 1999, will be deemed to be continuing in active service, **unless their Clubs advise the National Office otherwise.** All others who have retired in previous times, may be approached to rejoin, and treated like any other prospectian (for the purposes of the membership system at least!). A supplementary census has been forwarded to all those Clubs who had members due to retire on June 30th 1999, to ascertain their intentions.

The Association now has a new and re-invigorated Logo. Our Logo now rests on the word "Australia", and I am sure that you would agree with the delegates, that this more accurately represents the nature of our organisation. We must, can and do continue to make a significant contribution to our own local communities and together to the nation we

live in, and the Logo now more clearly identifies that major focus.

This is **not** to mean that our Fourth Ideal will be any less served. We have an opportunity during October 2000 of experiencing one of the most significant ways "to promote International understanding and friendship", when we host WOCO 2000. The registration numbers are already encouraging, and we fully expect to be hosting around 1000 like-minded people, from all over the world, to the WOCO Convention. As the Apex National Convention will be hosted at the same time, and in the same venues, this is a great chance to make friends with fellow service club members from the four corners of the world. Don't miss it!!

Your Association Board will be trying to ensure that we are always accessible, and open to hear your ideas and concerns. Please take the opportunity to contact any one of us if you need to discuss any issue. Your National Office staff is also always available to assist with administrative and historical enquiry and have undertaken to continue to support the volunteer effort.

Enjoy your Apex!!

## "Ironsides" says thanks

The privilege of leadership comes our way but once and when we have the opportunity we should take it.

I have been lucky to work with the leadership team of our Apex for the past twelve months. Your Association Board this past twelve months has brought us to the brink of the new millennium. The decisions you asked to be made are summarised in this issue and as you all know they are already making an impact within the communities in which we live.

Every issue of this magazine we read about some of the great things that Apex Clubs in communities all

over this Nation are doing. Let's try them in ours.

I would like to take this chance to thank you for the opportunity you afforded the 1998/99 Association Board.

Collectively we have had the opportunity to Grow, Learn, Make Friends and Have Fun. We all owe you a great debt of gratitude as well as the ongoing commitment to assist you to continue the work you directed us to do.

Our thanks is not only for the work you are doing but for the work you are still required to do. Keep working for Apex and the communities in which we are present, ever watchful

for opportunities to start new Clubs so that other communities can share in the vision we believe in.

Thank you for sharing it all with us.

Together in Apex  
Mike "Ironsides" Neville  
National President 1998/99





Firstly let me thank you for your confidence in me by electing me as the 1999/2000 National Vice President.

Over the past few years I have felt that as an organisation we needed to go back to what had made us so successful, **having fun in our Apex**. The basic ideas of service, citizenship and fellowship seem to have been a little lost in the constant struggle for survival. But, it is these three things that make us so successful. National President Mark talks about the Apex logo being an equilateral triangle for a reason. All sides of the triangle have to be worked on **equally** to make our Clubs fun, vibrant and vital, otherwise we find it hard to not only attract new members, but also to keep our current ones.

Wherever you go within our Asso-

ciation you can talk to past members and they all have the same memories of their days in Apex, fun times with great fellowship, lifelong friendships and the feeling of really having achieved something for their communities. The Association has changed and moved on over the years but we can make sure that we all get the same feeling as those past members. Our Mission Statement "**Grow, Learn, Make Friends and Have Fun While Helping Our Community**" virtually guarantees that we can do that if we follow a

few simple rules:

- Don't do things at your Club just because you always have. Constantly reassess the worth of your Clubs projects.
- If helping a group in your community, **ALWAYS** ask them to send some of their labour along to help, this ensures that you aren't burning out the same members who seem to go to all the projects.
- Make every service project a family event, if they can't help with the actual work then make sure it is followed by a social event and invite your non Apex friends along.
- We must never take ourselves too seriously. We all got into Apex for roughly the

same reasons and we all give the amount that we can to our Apex. There is no point crucifying ourselves over what we haven't been able to achieve.

National President Mark in his first report as NVP last year said "The direction to be followed during the next few years will be determined by the results of the strategic plan for the future of Apex that is currently in preparation". Delegates at the Gold Coast National Convention adopted that as the Apex plan for the Future, **now let's get on with its implementation**. For me the next couple of years are going to be the most exciting of my life, this is the start of a commitment by me to make a difference in our Association. I urge all Apexians to communicate with **your** Association Board, because that's what we are, **your board!** We need your input to drive this great Association of ours. We can't and won't do it by ourselves, we need your commitment.

The end of this year will see a number of Committee positions become vacant. If you are thinking about putting your hand up for one of these jobs why not contact your State President and the Committee chair to **see if you can help now**, by joining one of those committees. It's your Apex, you control its destiny, why not take it for a spin.

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Apex in SA & NT is alive and well. I have absolutely no doubt about that. Achievements and recognition of our Clubs have already started to be seen. But more of that later on.

At this point I want to thank immediate Past State President David Nancarrow for his enormous contribution to Apex in this State and as a member of National Board. He has devoted most of his adult life to Apex and his final recognition of Life Membership was deserved and exciting.

#### E.T.S. 1999

I had great pleasure in being part of the training team at this year's ETS at Loxton. The inspiring and YOUNG attendees gave credence to my opinion that we are moving in the right direction. A survey conducted at the ETS gave an average attending age of 31...**much lower than previous years**. The enthusiasm, willingness to learn and general attitude of all at Loxton have given an indication that we can and will climb in membership. Part of the new program included a "new Apexians" session. These new members displayed a sincere desire to learn more about our association, it's past deeds and promise for the future. The Saturday night State President's/Board Handover was again a new innovation which, I believe, was a success. The general atmosphere was upbeat, exciting and a spirit of achievement could be felt. The general theme for the weekend was "communicate to achieve". There was no doubt that after Loxton everyone was ready to go in 1999 - 2000 and beyond.

#### NATIONAL CONVENTION

What can I say about the Gold Cost? SA/NT did itself proud taking home eight separate awards. The Copper Oscars started the week, followed by Courtney Stephens winning the High School Public Speaking. The awards luncheon was a success. Bev Freeman winning the National Women's Apexian of the Year. Gawler Women's Club winning the Eric Hooper Service Award and Newsletter Award. SA & NT also picked up the John Stokes Boomerang for I.R. Jamie Verhoeven from Port Lincoln was announced as the Sir John Buchan Young Apexian of the Year and Peter Angel was awarded the Best Letter to the Apexian. The enthusiasm and spirit of achievement felt by all SA & NT Apexians was worth all the hard work put in over the last twelve months. I now challenge other clubs in SA & NT to put up their clubs and individuals for recognition. As volunteers none of us expect to be rewarded for our work as Apexians. But it is important to recognise those people and clubs that have created opportunities for their communities. So come on you SA & NT clubs. Show us your worth and give us more to be proud of.

#### MEMBERSHIP/CLUB BUILDING

This is an area that as a State and Territory we must now work on. Clubs must work at encouraging young members into the organisation. The state has a strong and experienced membership team, as well as Past President Dave Nancarrow who has taken on the role of National Membership Services Chairman. I encourage all clubs to contact either the State Committee or Dave for ideas, programs and information on increasing your membership. **All it takes is for each person to get one new member - or every District to start/restart one new Club!**

#### STATE CONVENTION

The Year 2000 State Convention will be held at Port Lincoln on Eyre Peninsula. "A Breath of Fresh Eyre" is the theme for the weekend. Remember that as individual clubs you have all paid for one registration in your State fees, so it is imperative

that each Club has at least one member attend as the Club Delegate. Port Lincoln will put on a fantastic Convention.....

Don't be the one that misses out on the first Convention of the new millennium! Apexians from other States will be made more than welcome.

#### STATE NEWSLETTER

By the time you read this you should have already received the first edition of the "State of the State" newsletter. This is one way that the State Board will be constantly communicating with the members. We ask that clubs submit details of upcoming events that may be of interest to other clubs and members so that they can be published in the newsletter.

#### FIJI PROJECT

The FIJI book project is rapidly coming to an end. Congratulations to the organising club, Gawler Women's, on their efforts as well as the magnificent effort given by all those clubs that have supported them. It is not too late to get involved. Contact SVP Bev Freeman for details.

#### NATIONAL KINDNESS WEEK

Another project that will have reached completion by the time this article goes to print is the "Help the Homeless". It is a project that resulted from the enthusiasm generated from the District Governor's School between DG Riverland & Lower North Tracey Joemets and DG Fleurieu & Mallee DG Darren Park. On Saturday August 7<sup>th</sup>, the clubs and districts got together to provide a BBQ brunch for the homeless in Whitmore Square in Adelaide. Pancakes, Soup and a BBQ were the order of the day. A great way to really provide a service to the community and become involved in National Kindness Week.

As a State, SA & NT is moving ahead. There was real enthusiasm and excitement generated prior to and during the National Convention. Let's continue that mode of thinking. Remember that as clubs we are only limited by our imagination.

No dare - No Flair.



Although I have been State President for just over a month, I feel that the future of Apex in Western Australia is in good hands. The past month has highlighted to me that the West has a competent and dedicated team that on it's State Committee.

Breaking from tradition of having all State Committee members converge to every State Committee meeting, which is cost prohibitive, it was decided to have the State Executive travel to the various Districts for State Committee meetings. This meant that the only members of the State Committee present at these meetings would be the 3 State Committee Executives (SP, SVP & SS/T) and that District's DG, with reports presented from all the other Committee members.

The reasoning behind this idea was simple. To show the members that the administration of their State is not centralised and to put faces to

the names they may read about. So far, feed back from Clubs has been positive, with a more personalised approach to the management of the State.

As well as having a travelling Executive Committee, each State Committee meeting will also consist of a mini ETS. Because of the immense distances in WA, many Clubs are unable to attend the official ETS, Therefore we are taking the ETS to them.

It was with a degree of sadness that I represented Western Australia at the memorial service for Ewen Laird recently. My trip to Geelong was a bittersweet experience, as I visited all the historical Apex sites that I had heard and read about, then was present at the memorial service for one of the men responsible for the existence of this great association. I felt honoured to represent WA at this unique occasion.

The one thing that was going to be difficult was to surpass the State project of my predecessor, Bob Cooper. To organise 699 utes and mutts was an enormous undertaking, matched with the excellent PR that it gave Apex in WA. However, I believe we may have found the project to beat it. Although I don't want to give too much away at this early juncture, this project will get all Apexians, past and present, involved. The cost to Clubs and members will be **absolutely nothing**, with the increase of public knowledge and perception of Apex in-

creased immensely. Stay tuned for what it is during Apex week next year.

The WA State Convention is fast approaching, occurring on the 8<sup>th</sup> /10<sup>th</sup> October. The Apex Club of Armadale/Kelmscott is the host for the convention, with some excellent events planned to encourage members from all over WA to attend. Some of the events programmed are for the children to sleep on the tall ship 'Leeuwin' on Saturday night and a post convention cruise on the 'Leeuwin' on the Sunday. Named the Jailbreak Convention, it is sure to be one of the best State Conventions yet!

The WA State Committee changeover and ETS, held at New Norcia which is a monastic town 90 minutes drive Northeast of Perth, was an overwhelming success. So impressed was the community with Apex (and Apexians), the Abbott of New Norcia invited all the Apexians to assist with harvesting the olives at the community. New Norcia is in a beautiful part of WA and that invitation is certain to be accepted.

In a bid to increase the ties between States, SA/NTSP Bryan and myself have been discussing travelling to Eucla on the SA/WA border to erect a welcoming Apex sign on the Eyre Highway. Also to partake in a little fishing and surfing. What better way to promote interclub visiting? Anyone interested in coming along please contact either Bryan or myself.

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## Tasmanian State President

Andrew Wadley



G'day from God's Paradise! Yes, that little place on the map.

Things are looking great down here with a positive attitude from all sectors of the State. The Queenstown

boys started the fun off [in a good way] with the removal of their hair for you mainlanders. Both heads in doing so, raised \$1,700 – not bad when you taken into consideration that it happened at ETS, Bronte Park!

That reminds me what a top weekend the ETS was – a great time to catch up with old mates, and don't forget those new ones, and most of all, learn a hell of a lot also. Trainers for the weekend were Life Member John Earley, Past State President Dennis Dwyer and Past National Secretary/Treasurer Andrew Eastaugh, and from all reports, a job well done. From all those Apexians who attended and myself, a big thank you.

Did you know that when Andrew

Eastaugh relaxes he lets go and consumes abundance amounts of that stuff named BUNDY? Yes, that's right. Those long legs take a lot to fill!

Tassy is looking pretty good with the Clubs' Changeovers now completed with some new members being inducted on those nights – good to see don't you think?

It looks like the Apex Club of Hobart will start up again now that the age limit has been lifted to 45, thanks to past National President Gil Thomas, with the recruitment of 15 members ready and willing. Hopefully, they will be up and running by the time I next report.

All in all, Tassy is keeping our end up, are you?

## Queensland State President

John Forsyth

Well, another National Convention has passed, great fellowship, and it was great to see the delegates recognize that we need to start looking inward at ourselves. The changes that this convention made recognize the changing face of society today. We are not the same society that was around fifty years ago. The raising of the age limit is an opportunity, not a solution. I hope that the clubs see this as an opportunity to capture some of the experience that we have invested in members that were about to retire, and draw on their experience to train the clubs in APEX.

After returning from the Rowsley National DG School, I am proud to say that I can see that this year's District Governors have a vision. For a number of years in Queensland we have worked tirelessly to complete our APEX HOUSE, Royal Children's Hospital Foundation Project. This has expended a lot of effort on the clubs and many have expressed that they are tiring from fundraising. Therefore the State committee saw this as an opportunity to change our focus for a year or two. A number of DG's have nominated area's in which they are going to form new clubs. For without club growth or at least stem-

ming the flow of club losses we will not have an organisation to fundraise in a few years.

Breaking news is that there is already a new unchartered club in Queensland, The Apex Club of Cooloola. Before the deadline for this article they will have had their first meeting and election of office bearers. The Gympie Apex Club will sponsor them. Cooloola Apex Club will be a women's only Club.

Cairns also have 7 people interested in forming a new club and they will also sponsor a new club this year. The driving force behind this club is a lady who transferred to Cairns from Victoria and was a member of a mixed club there, as there was no mixed club in Cairns she thought why not make one. It is this type of spirit that took Apex to dizzy heights in the past, and is the same spirit we need to grasp, and promote when we recognise it.

A number of other DG's have also planned new clubs and I hope to be able to report further on this in the future.

This year also, DG's will be attending State Committee meetings, and the first two will be held at the Queensland Apex Youth Camps. It will bring the existence of these

facilities to the attention of the membership of other Districts, so that we can make best use of the facilities that we have at our fingertips.

I look forward to my year as State President. I am confident that the positive outlook with which Queensland has started out the year continues. I am very aware that one person alone **cannot succeed without a team of people working together toward the same goal.** I will be working to ensure that this year my "team" is the **whole membership of Apex Queensland.**







Another year, another State President, reminds me of the Sun Herald cartoons of father time heralding in the New Year, as a baby. As the new State President some of my ideas will be new, certainly my approach is different to Bart. Firstly I would like to congratulate Bart and his State Committee for the way they managed our State over the past twelve months. My position has been made easier being handed a solid, energetic State. Thanks Bart.

For those who attended the National Convention would have come away confident that Victoria is again leading the way, with **7 National Awards to its credit**. "The State of Apex" is certainly alive and well. Congratulations to all winners, it shows that with a club effort and dedication anything can be achieved, and has.

It was very interesting to see the

number of Women's Clubs that were nominated for awards. It vindicates the decision to open Apex membership and we are richer for the involvement of them. Congratulations to Geelong Women's and Gawler Women's Club on your, much deserved, recognition. To all individual winners, congratulations and keep up the great work.

By now most members should be aware of the decisions made at National Convention, which will again change the face of Apex as we enter the new millenium. The increased age limit to 45 will allow Clubs to stabilise numbers and put back some of the experience potentially lost to the Association. **This is not the answer to our membership decline** and Clubs must think seriously about how to address recruitment in the 1999/2000 year. Each Club and town will have unique ideas or approaches to the membership crisis that face all service clubs and I would like to take this opportunity now to offer the support of myself and my State Committee to any initiative that we may assist with. Let's hear your ideas!

Personally, I like the simple but effective approach of walking up to someone and asking him or her "have they ever thought about joining Apex?" The direct approach will often surprise you, as it has me over the years. Contacts are often curious about what we do in Apex

so take the opportunity to tell them. We live in a State that has increasing membership despite the actual decline in Clubs. This year with the increase in age our numbers will probably rise again, but I would like to see growth from new members going out and talking about Apex and not relying on the old timers.

It is important to badge ourselves as Apexians!. Wear our lapel badges to functions and to work, proudly. Put the Apex symbol on our business cards!. Take every opportunity to provide support in the community on condition that the Apex symbol is displayed and recognition given to your work. Apex has to be visible to sell itself. Simple stuff I know but one doesn't have to be rocket science.

On a sad note, Apex Victoria would like to extend its condolences to the family of our Founders, Ewen Laird, who passed away recently. Gone is a very special era for our wonderful Association. Ewen was a visionary whose legacy has impacted on the lives of thousands in this country, with the ideals of mateship and of community service. Our thoughts are with his family at this time.

I hope to get to all parts of the State this year and participate in as many activities as possible. I would love to hear what is going on in this great State and look forward to serving you and the Association in 1999/2000.



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What can I say, what a privilege it is to take the reins of NSW as it's State President. I can still remember National Vice President Steve Gribbin on the stage at the National Presidents Handover telling me to take the grin off my face, but he was grinning just as much. That feeling is one that I will never forget and one that I recommend to every Apexian to think about having a go at and leading your own great State.

Now the celebrations are over the real work begins. I am not the type of bloke that is comfortable in a coat and tie trying to looking pretty at a head table. I'd rather be out mixing it with the members and out doing service work. The offer still stands, invite me to help with a project, where you can see that your State Officials are just normal Apexians taking on that little bit more.

Talking about taking on that little bit more, I set a goal six months ago to try my hardest to stop losing clubs. In NSW we have had a significant membership increase over the past couple of years but we are still losing a few clubs a year, for whatever reason. With the help of your District Governors we are calling informal round table meetings where clubs can at first have a shot at me and tell me were we are going wrong and then we focus on their strengths and what they are doing for their community. Lastly, we look at their needs and the problems they are having and more times than not another club in the District can help out and they in turn can help another Club. I have found that Clubs just talking, and with others listening, that a lot of our problems can be overcome. By the time you get to read this, six of the Districts in NSW will have been involved in these meetings and, I believe, that at the time of writing this **two Clubs have been saved and more to come.** Call me naive if you wish, but I'm willing to give this a go as I believe that Clubs talking can make a difference.

On the weekend of 21st and 22nd of August, Northern NSW will trial our first Regional training. These weekends will be held in scout camps, and the like, the attendee's will bring their swags and sleeping bags and bunk down on the floor. These low cost weekends will make

it easier for all Apexians to receive the necessary training to allow us to be successful at our clubs. These weekends will not replace the ETS but rather compliment it and give all Apexians a sound Apex knowledge.

Finally, to give something of a special service to the Apexians of NSW and in fact all Apexians, I have asked Past District Governor Paul Kumasaka to be **our first NSW Apex Chaplain.** At times we all have troubles in our life, a sickness in the family or the death of a love one and feel the need to talk to someone. Why not someone who shares the joy of Apex with us? Paul is an Anglican Priest and NSW Police Chaplain and therefore fully qualified for the role. In fact Paul has been talking to Apexians in an unofficial role for years so this is just letting all Apexians know that Paul is about. **Paul is contactable on 02 68981082 and all conversations are strictly confidential.**

As you can see my Board will try to make NSW Apex one for all the members by giving members the chance to talk and raise their concerns; to work together; to have low cost training; and to have someone there when they need them. If Clubs are happier, and having a great time, **our Clubs will grow and so will our Association.**

Thank you for the opportunity to lead NSW in this Apex year. I won't let you down and feel free to call me on any issue you feel the need to.

## Quit.

### Leave the pack behind

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The 1999 National Convention was a fantastic event, with the decision-makers present providing Apex with some excellent opportunities for the future. The degree to which we maximise these opportunities is up to each and every one of us.

I urge all Clubs to become fully conversant with the changes that took place, whether they were mi-

nor rule changes, or significant motions such as the age limit to 45 for males and mixed gender Clubs. All agenda items were considered important and were tabled and debated for a reason. Our job is to now work with the new "tools" that we have been provided with and make them work for us.

If you are not sure of the impact or interpretation of any item, there are many places to seek help. In addition to your District Governors and our ever reliable National Office, your Association Board is committed to assisting all Apexians. I encourage you to utilise their assistance and if I can assist personally in any way, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Apart from the normal procedural requirements associated with the role of National Secretary, for the year ahead I will be endeavouring to ensure that **communication** within the Association is **timely**,

but most importantly **effective**. Whilst I will be utilising the traditional communication vehicles, should anyone have any suggestions as to how we can improve the "process", once again, please don't hesitate to call.

In closing I would be remiss not to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of past National Secretary/Treasurer Andrew Eastaugh (as well as the 1998/1999 Association Board). Andrew is continuing in his role as editor of the Apex Website and I'm sure that he would love to hear from you.

For mine the year 2000 should not only be significant in numerical terms, it should also represent a year of growth and significant progress within Apex. Let's all embrace the opportunities presented to us and rise above the ordinary to ensure that the year ahead is successful and rewarding for Apex and our communities.

South Australia & Northern Territory

CONVENTION 2000  
PORT LINCOLN



*"a BREATH OF FRESH EYE"*

February 25th - 27th

Eyre Peninsula - South Australia  
Apex Club of Port Lincoln

All Enquiries to Convention Chairman -  
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*Apexians from all States welcomed!  
Come and see how SA/NT party!*

Complete Registration Kits will be posted to each  
SA/NT Club during August.

## 2001 Apex National Convention to be held in Warrnambool - Victoria

The Apex district that only for Apexians but for established the famous Apex.

'Apex Cobber-Dog-In-a-Ute-Queue', has won the right to host the 2001 National Convention. The South Western District is made up of seven Clubs and will co-host the Convention in Warrnambool, Victoria - part of the famous Shipwreck Coast and home to an international whale nursery and hence the theme "You'll have a whale of a time"

Warrnambool has a population of nearly 30,000 and has many conference venues, accommodation facilities, restaurants, sporting facilities and attractions to chose from and work is already underway to ensure the weekend will be a real success not

only for Apexians but for established the famous Apex.

The Convention will be held in July 2001 and has the strong backing of the Warrnambool Regional Development Board and tourism groups which have offered financial and commercial assistance. Their aim is to make the Convention a true family event that won't see Apexians running to their bank managers to explain their credit limit problems!

The committee is also investigating discount packages for Apex members who register for their own State Convention as well as the 2001 Convention - stay tuned for further details next year.

## Executive Director asks -



### MAYBE WE CAN LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT "SURVIVAL" FROM OUR PEERS, OTHER COMMUNITY SERVICE CLUBS?

On the reverse side of my business card, the question "What is Apex?" is attempted to be answered by outlining the numerics and philosophies of our organisations; Clubs; and to where we have exported the philosophy; a statement about our reason for being [including our Mission Statement] and a statement of Ideals and some very simple historic data.

Also contained within it is a statement, "Apex's membership is its lifeblood and it has achieved an enormous amount for Australians since it commenced in 1931".

**Membership is one of the great challenges that all volunteer community service Clubs face throughout the world as we approach the new millennium** [refer my article on the challenges facing the other organisations that comprise the world Service Club Leaders Conference in the Autumn 1999

edition of "The Apexian", at pages 44-47 inclusive].

I recently saw an article in the Multiple District 201 [Australia, PNG and Norfolk Island] magazine about the "resurrection" of Lions Clubs in 2 very different communities in Australia. One was suburban Melbourne [and it is in the "suburban" Australian areas where Apex has suffered its greatest challenge/s in recent years] and the other in a "tiny farming town in south-west Western Australia".

Some years ago, as a result of the relationship between "key players" in apex, volunteer members of the Management team of Lions Multiple District 201 and the employed executive of the 2 organisations, we were gifted the contents of the then revolutionary "Lions Membership Manual". With Lions permission it was rebadged and amended to suit our organisation and has subsequently been distributed to **every Apex Club in the Association and to District governors at the National District governors School since National President Wayne Hosier's year of office in 1994-1995**. It was also distributed to all State Presidents who have served since that time, and enough copies distributed to State Presidents for distribution to those District governors who were unable to attend the annual National District Governors School.

Whilst this Manual has been available for 5 years, my travels throughout the organisation reveal that little use is made of a very useable resource. At its commencement, the Manual states a prophetic quotation, "**upon the planes of hesitation, bleached the bones of countless millions, who, on the threshold of victory, sat down to wait, and waiting they died**". [Credit for that statement is given to Walter Dickman & Associates].

So, does your Club have a membership challenge, like so many other Apex Clubs throughout Australia and, if so, **what are you doing about it?**

Returning to the Lions resurrection. The Lions Club from the "tiny farming town in the south-west WA" undertook their resurrection in a way that is as appropriate for Apex Clubs as it is for Lions Clubs, as it is for the **majority of other community service Clubs who seriously wish to survive as a resource to their local community**.

Firstly, the remaining members decided **not to give up! To give it one more go!**

Secondly, both the metropolitan and farming community Clubs sought what should always prove to be readily available assistance from experienced fellow organisational members of other Clubs.

Both Clubs in different communities adhered to a **game plan, and never lost sight of the objective!**

In the case of the Lions club in the farming town in Western Australia [and the town was Boyanup] it actually announced that it was about to close back in 1994. Membership had diminished by retirement and two experienced members of the Lion organisation **transferred in** to assist in the saving of the Club.

To quote the article in "The Lion" magazine, "*their successful winning formula was nothing complicated. Meeting agendas ensured the correct balance of business and fun. Never, ever, were consecutive business meetings held, nor were business meetings turned into Committee Meetings. The Clubs programmes were planned to incorporate a variety of projects to involve all members. The meeting venue and menu were reviewed with a critical eye [and upgraded]. New ideas from new members were welcomed. Birthdays were recognised and a monthly bulletin was a must! Then, to add a personal touch, potential members were invited to a member's home or social event before attending a meeting. The result the Lions Club experienced an increase to 20 active members who enjoyed their local community in many constructive ways!*"

**Just how much can Apex Clubs learn from this simple formula?**

In the case of the "suburban" Club. On its 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary the Club, being down to only 5 members, called

*(Continued on page 14)*

for help. To celebrate this milestone birthday they received a very welcome present – an injection of much-needed new members!

"The Lion" magazine reports, "quick to respond to the call for help were 3 nearby suburban Lions Clubs. Out went some 12,000 recruitment letters, all personally delivered to homes in the suburban area concerned. In came 21 positive responses, sufficient for a well-planned information night".

12 of these responses were inducted at the time the article appeared in "The Lion" magazine, with one more pending.

[It is interesting to note that Lions Multiple District 201 Membership Chairman, Past District Governor Geoff Cossart is a Life Member of a suburban Apex Club in metropolitan Sydney].

Geoff is reported as saying, on the survival and resurrection of the 2 Clubs, "These 2 Clubs are wonderful examples for us all, it just shows what can be done when at least 1 member shows he/she really cares, not only about "the organisation" and the opportunity we provide for individual members, but more importantly for the ongoing service provided to our communities. It is most pleasing to note another aspect. Both Clubs followed good basic principles. They proved that revivals can be achieved". Geoff further stated that it was up to those who wish to see their Club resurrected/survive to ask for help – before it's too late".

There are some great resources available to you if you feel that your Apex Club may not survive to see, or too far into, the start of the next millennium!

Contact your District governor; elected State Executive; members of the National membership Service Standing Committee; or the Executive Director at National Office.

2 brief statements come to mind when the subject of membership is canvassed:

"DO IT NOW!" and/or "JUST DO IT!" [with apologies and recognition of the sporting goods manufacturer who "owns" this last-mentioned statement].

Andrew Phillips

## STIRLING APEX [SA/NT]

### Releases its first CD

Stirling Apex have recorded their first album with their Choir for Hire. This momentous CD boasts all their classics including, Apex train a coming, Ode to the Boultons and My old man's in Apex. This fabulous collection of sing-a-longs was recorded in one take at the Stirling Apex 1999 Handover dinner.

A very unique collection of tone deaf individuals make up the infamous Stirling Apex Choir for Hire.



Started in 1981 to celebrate the clubs 20<sup>th</sup> birthday by then President David Evans the choir have been howling away at many an event, handover dinners, weddings, birthdays and apparently even a talent night.

It's a must for everybody's CD collection, get one for your under you Christmas tree now! Call now - our staff are on call 24hrs a day to take your order!

#### Choir for Hire-Live 1999 Handover



# Apex Children's Chalet

## 20TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS



In the previous two editions of *The Apexian* there have been articles on the history of the Apex Children's Chalet and the celebrations planned for

Saturday 23 October 1999 which will mark the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its opening.

### Now it's time for you to plan your involvement.

The organising committee encourages and will welcome the attendance and participation of anyone with an interest in the Chalet.

### Celebrations planned for the Chalet

On the weekend of 23 & 24 October 1999 there will be a get together at the Station Resort in Jindabyne where you can socialise and renew old friendships. On the Saturday afternoon there will be opportunities to visit the Chalet, look over the facilities and wonder at what Apex achieved way back in 1979 – the International Year of the Child.

National President Mark Fishwick's National Board will be meeting at the Chalet from 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1999, and attending this historic Apex function on the Saturday night.

On the Saturday evening an official celebratory dinner with entertainment will be held at the Station Resort at a cost of \$40 per head. Cooma Apex will be offering a separate activity to keep the children entertained.

The Station Resort has been selected for the venue as it has family oriented facilities and budget priced accommodation. The accommodation varies from twin and single to six-bed rooms (all with tea and coffee making facilities) with prices ranging from \$65 to \$85 per room per night. Breakfast and other meals can be ordered.

### Pre-celebration activities

For those with the time to spare, non competitive car rallies are being planned to start on Thursday 21 October from locations such as Sydney, Melbourne, the Riverina, Dubbo, the NSW South Coast and the Hunter Valley with the actual starting locations will depend on the amount of interest shown. There is a separate article in this edition of *The Apexian* by Graham Ellison with more details. Please read it and contact Graham if you are interested in joining in.

To join in the celebrations just fill in the registration form and send it off or 'phone Wally Lawson at home on (02) 4821 7330 for more details.

Bob Harrison  
Committee Chairman

## Apex Children's Chalet 20th Anniversary Celebratory Car Tours

If you are interested in joining the Chalet's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations, but find that two days away from home just isn't long enough, then grab the family or some willing mates and join one of the groups planning a leisurely drive to the chalet starting on Thursday 21 October 1999. The main concept of these tours is relaxation, fun and renewing old and not so ancient friendships. The leisurely trip will give you the opportunity to see countryside you would rarely pass (or pass too quickly) with maximum enjoyment and without feeling the urge to contribute to the State coffers.

### The Sydney to Jindabyne Tour

Leaving southern Sydney on the afternoon of Thursday, 21 October we will wind up and down some of the few curvaceous roads the RTA have not yet butchered. Taking in various sights and glorious scenery there will be more than enough time to stop along the way to raid the odd cafe, antique store and craft shop or simply to smell the flowers. With no dirt roads and no timetable, everyone will be able to make stops along the way to suit their own preferences.

Thursday night will be spent in true Apex spirit at the SHACK (Shoalhaven Heads Apex Cottages for Kids) at Shoalhaven Heads. A laidback function is being "organised" by Ray Vincent, the extremely well known Life Governor with the well deserved reputation for partying.

Friday will see us journey 270km via Batemans Bay, the Kings Highway, Braidwood and Bungendore to Queanbeyan where there will be a get together at a suitable venue with appropriate facilities.

On Saturday morning we head off to Cooma, Jindabyne and the Station Resort with a trip to the Chalet planned for the afternoon.

### The Melbourne to Jindabyne Tour

Another tour is being organised by Ian Feeney. He plans to start it from Melbourne with an overnight stop in the Rutherglen area. This may be as far as they go!!!

### Other Options?

Other tours can be organised or you can join in the Sydney or Melbourne tour at any time. I am told that a group from the Hunter region will join the Sydney tour at the start and another from the NSW south coast will join us at the SHACK.

So drag out the vintage/veteran/sports car, the family wagon, or hitch a ride with a mate and join in the fun. For those of you who are interested, demand to have more information or have any bright ideas please contact Graham Ellison on: tel. (02)9589 0699, fax (02) 9528 5121, e-mail: gmellison@one.net.au, or via snailmail: PO Box 35 Oyster Bay 2225.

Graham Ellison  
Tour Coordinator

# 1999 Apex Foundation - Chalet 20th Anniversary

## "The Magic Castle"

Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 1999

### REGISTRATION FORM

On the weekend of the 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1999 there will be a reunion of past and present Apexians and other interested parties to celebrate the opening of "The Magic Castle" in 1979. This commemorates the 20<sup>th</sup> year that Apexians have provided the Chalet to children from all over NSW and Australia. The weekend is a get-together of those people who have been associated with the Chalet in any way and is a chance to get re-acquainted with old friends, make some new ones and to have a good time.

Formality has been kept to a minimum. Below is a registration form with details of the costs of the weekend.

Accommodation and the Saturday evening activities will be centred on the Station Resort at Jindabyne.

The Chalet will be open for inspection on Saturday so that those attending will have time to view this jewel in the Apex crown and to catch-up with friends. Activities will be arranged for the kids on the Saturday evening. Further details will be sent out with confirmation of your registration.

Contact Details : **Wal Lawson (Penny)**,  
68 Mundy St., Goulburn NSW , 2580  
Ph 02 4821 7330 (h) 02 4823 1828 (w)  
02 4823 1817 (fax)  
Email : [wlawson@goulburn.net.au](mailto:wlawson@goulburn.net.au)

Accommodation and Dinner Saturday Evening  
The Station Resort – Jindabyne

✕ -----

#### Registration Costs

	Room	Cost PER ROOM per night	Number of rooms Required	Total Cost
Accommodation	Twin/single	\$65		
	4 bed room	\$75		
	5 or 6 bed room	\$85		

		Cost per person Adult	Number of people attending.	
Saturday Evening	Dinner	\$40.00		
Registration processing fee (non refundable)				\$10.00
Number of Children attending.			TOTAL	\$

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ (h)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ (w)

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please send me details about the non-competitive car rallies
- Please return the completed form to Wal Lawson (Penny), 68 Mundy St., Goulburn NSW , 2580  
Ph 02 4821 7330 (h) 02 4823 1828 (w) (02) 4823 1817(fax) or [wlawson@goulburn.net.au](mailto:wlawson@goulburn.net.au)
- Find enclosed cheque for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for options marked above (minimum deposit \$50)

OR

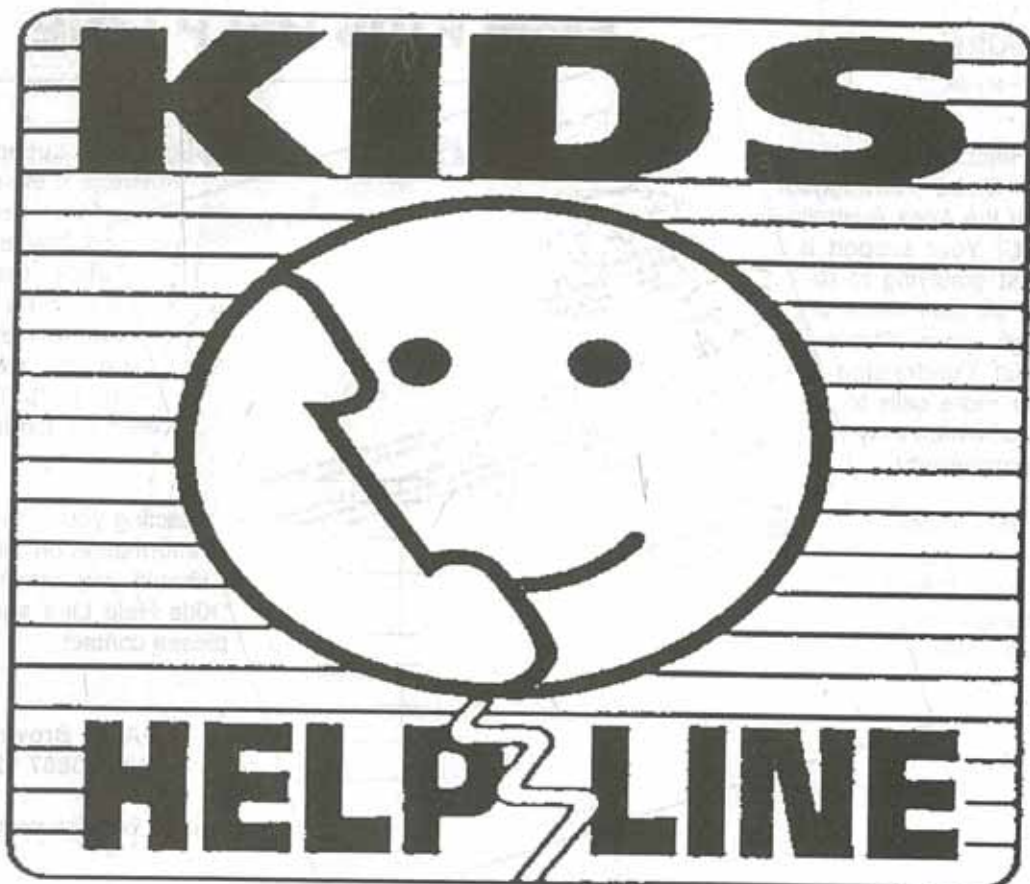
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# Kid's Colour-in Page



*"We care - we listen"*

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ADDRESS: .....

.....

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# Kids Help Line says thank you



"We care - we listen"™

## STOP PRESS From KIDS HELP LINE

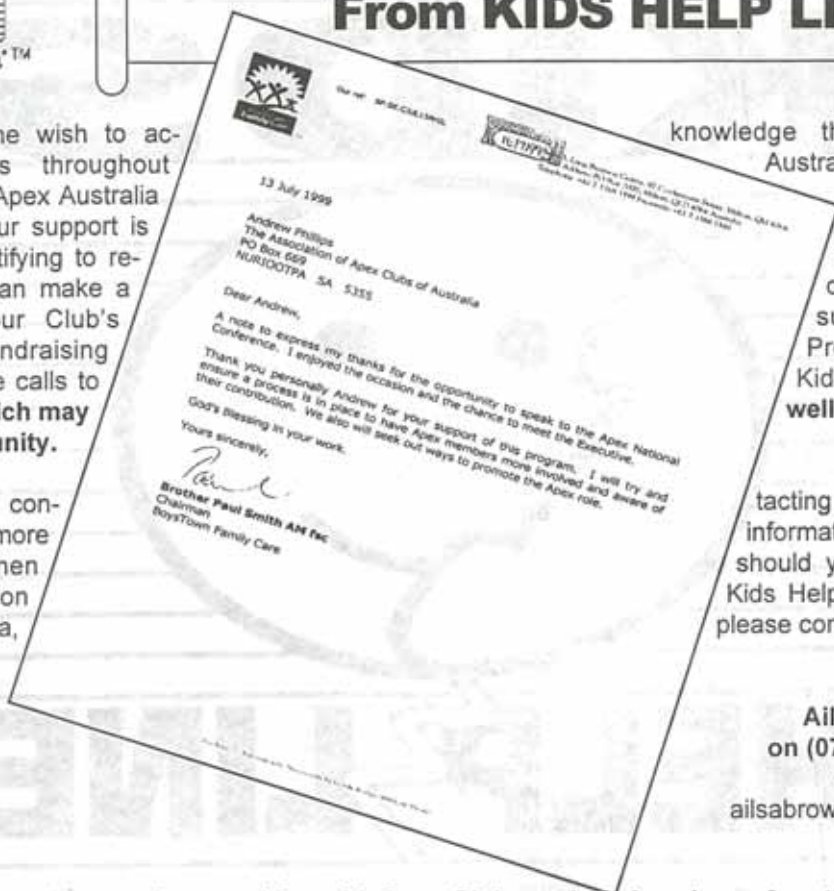
Kids HelpLine wish to acknowledge the support of Apex Clubs throughout Australia in the recent fundraising vote on the Apex Australia Project. Your support is its most gratifying to re-gather we can make a difference. Through your Club's National Fundraising answer more calls to some of which may own community.

We will be confident with more project, until then information on regional data,

knowledge the support of Australia in the recent fundraising overwhelming. realise that to-difference. support of this Project, we can Kids Help Line - well be from your

tacting you in the near information on this Pro-should you require any Kids Help Line and your please contact

Ailsa Brown  
on (07) 3867 1224  
or  
ailsabrown@hotmail.com



We look forward to continue working with Apex Clubs and Apexians for the benefit of young Australians in need. Together we can make a real difference to their lives - at a time when they need it most.

## Bairnsdale Youth benefit from local Apex Club

At a recent Club meeting, Bairnsdale Apex Club members were addressed by a Bairnsdale Police Senior Sergeant who advised them that there had been a degree of difficulty in obtaining some areas of community support to do something for youth on their local front.

A proposed Youth Centre is to be set up in Bairnsdale as a model youth project. Youth clubs in Victoria have been put on hold to see how Bairnsdale progresses.

Community representation on the new Youth Club Committee asked Apex Bairnsdale to contribute

cash. Members were told that the Youth Club needs a start up fund of \$20,000 and \$150,000 over the next three years.

The President and Members of the Apex Club believes the Youth Club concept to be exciting and expected that they would support the club in more ways than one. Following a couple more meetings, it was decided that they would be donating \$1,000 worth of sporting equipment to the centre. This may not sound like a substan-

tial sum, but when you consider the current size of the Bairnsdale Club and its size over the past few years along with other financial hardships the area has had to cope with [1998 floods], it really is quite an achievement.



L to R - Apexian David Beynon, Youth Centre President Craig Smith, Youth Centre Committee representative Amanda Jackson and Apexian Andrew McArthur

# Life Governor 'Tig' Thomas

Continuing the series of interviews with one of Apex's Life Governors



**Q. Tig, you have obviously had a busy and successful career. To what do you owe your success?**

A. You assume Andrew that my professional career was a success. Let me just say that I was invited to join a firm of Chartered Accountants in Wagga Wagga [my home town] after I had been runner up in the chase for the junior clerk position advertised by the Wagga Wagga Municipal Council [later City Council]. This was my start in the Accountancy profession in 1941 at the grand old age of 14 years.

Though interrupted by several years in the Navy [1944/47] I managed to qualify in 1948, was admitted to the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Australia in Australia on 9 June 1949, and became a partner in the firm on 1 July 1949 at 22 years of age, almost a record [beaten recently by a young bloke who was a few months younger – but he didn't have a Navy interrupt his studies].

If I've been successful, it's been because I have always been keen to do the very best I could in whatever field of endeavour I was involved. My earlier background [brought up by wonderful and loving parents, 2 brothers and a sister] included Sunday School, Fellowship, Sunday School teacher, Scout, and Rover Scout, all before I had joined the Navy at 18, and

before I joined Apex in 1948. I've also had a devoted wife [Mavis] for 50 years [21/5/99], and five wonderful children Mavis brought up!

In 1962 I took over a Sydney practice for "the Firm". Though still involved with Wagga Wagga practice, we moved to Sydney and I transferred to Killara Apex Club. I was elected to the Research Society Committee of the Institute in 1963 [7 years] and the Committee of the Local Government Auditors Association of NSW [30 years], and in a range of other activities. In Easter 1964, Killara Apex Club put me up for National Vice President [the same weekend my older partner in Wagga Wagga – and former employer and Foundation Secretary of Wagga Apex Club les Adams, had a stroke which completely incapacitated him].

The Sydney practice quadrupled in the first eight years, and in 1972 I divided the practice handing part over to other members of the firm. In 1976 I relinquished the practice I had retained to my partner, and continued as a sole practitioner, still working with Wagga and Sydney practices on Local Government Audits.

**Q. Tell me how Apex came into your life?**

A. In 1948 I was invited by a fellow Elder of the Presbyterian Church, Eric Dunn [grandfather of Mathew Dunn, that successful Olympic swimmer!] to join Apex, and I was inducted in May 1948. I joined more out of respect for my nominator than my regard for Apex about which I didn't know too much, and I was initially luke warm having many other "irons in the fire". However, I was elected to the Board in 1949 and had something concrete to get me fired up. In 1950/51 I was Club President, and really had to perform to the best of my ability. I really started to "live" Apex. This was the turning point because as

has been said so many times 'the more you put into Apex, the more you get out of it'. This is true of any organisation as I've proved many times over the years.

**Q. Tell me more about your memories of your time in Apex?**

A. I've been most fortunate in having so many satisfying roles to play in and through Apex. From 1949 to my retirement in 1966 I was constantly on either Club Board or in a Zone or National position. Club President 1950/51 and 1960/61, Service Director [2 years], various other portfolios, Zone 2 Secretary/Treasurer 1952/53, Zone Vice President 1953/54, Zone President 1954/55, National Treasurer 1956/57, more Club Portfolios, then to Killara where I was Zone 10 Membership Chairman for Zone 10 Board, National Vice President 1964/65, and National President 1965/66. [There were activities in other spheres – two terms as Commodore of Middle Harbour Yacht Club [1976/79, 1995/97] and Wagga Wagga Boat Club, awarded Life Membership WWBC and MHYC – 47 years yachting administration at Club, State and National level – Life Fellowship of the Local Government Auditors Association].

Some of the most satisfying experiences were:

**Club Presidency** enabled me to maintain a close contact and work directly with the members, which created a close bond which has lasted over the years.

Two years as **Service Director** gave me a chance to really get involved in some terrific service schemes. I was the "expediter" of the construction in one day of an 18 square Pre School, and the following year we built a 9 square Scout Hall in a day, running a fete simultaneously. This raised two thirds of the cost of the Hall. Other service projects during those two years included organising, with City

uncil and RAAF, the granting of the Freedom of the City to the RAAF Base, Forest Hill, along with a week of celebrations including a Ball, Air Pageant and concert with the RAAF Central Band. A similar project for the Army Base at Kapooka followed the very next year. There was a lot of satisfaction in being leaders in a number of initiatives, and carrying them out, setting an example to other members of the community. For instance, with the Pre-School Kindergarten construction I persuaded a number of tradesmen to donate their services on the "day". We had three carpenters' teams, a plumber's team, an electrician's team, and to each of these was allocated Apexian "Golfers". At 5.30pm the job was done and handed over that night at 8.00pm. We took all the workers to the pub for a "thank you" drink and it was a buzz. Many of the tradesmen didn't think it could be done in the time frame, and were just so happy to have been part of it. Out of that project I got the Chief Builder [an old schoolmate from primary days] to join Apex. We set a standard, and it was no problem to enlist volunteers the following years for the Scout Hall project.

**Q. As a National President you travelled extensively?**

**A.** In the two years I served as Vice and President of Apex I travelled about 180,000 miles on Apex business. I visited every Zone a number of times and presented Charters to new Clubs whenever possible. I also made it my business to attend as many Change-over Dinners, District and Zone Conventions as possible. This was in the days when there was little in the "kitty" to pay for travel costs so I appreciated the opportunity to be billeted with fellow Apexians. This gave me a great opportunity to get a "feel" for Apex where I was visiting, and to make friends with some wonderful families. I still managed to "clock up" most hours work in our office.

My visits to SE Asia, first as

Vice President in 1964 to Ceylon [as it then was], Singapore and Malaysia – then in 1966 to Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Singapore, India and East Pakistan [now Bangladesh], gave me an opportunity to see what Apex could do in these countries and how far it could be an influence for good in the community. In 1966 I had the pleasure of presenting Charters to South Calcutta and Chittagong, and addressing Inaugural Dinner of North Calcutta. I was pleased to chair the first District Conventions in India and Bangladesh. In the two years as "Vice" and "Pres", there wasn't much of Australia I hadn't covered so that I could make personal contact with all Apexians. It was a great privilege to have personally met so many, a number of who are still in contact – I'm a lucky man!

**Q. Finally Tig, what were the highlights of your Apex life and generally?**

**A.** I've been looking through a scrap book Mavis kept of our Apex and other activities and it brings back some very happy memories. There were so many highlights that it's hard to single out a few. I have always regarded my two terms as Club President [50/51, 60/61] as some of the most enjoyable experiences as I was so closely involved with the members of my Club, yet still had close relationships with Association members through attendance at Conventions and interclub visits. In 50/51 I was the "baby" of the Board at 24, and because I had persuaded them to run a Billycart Derby with only 6 weeks "lead time", had to agree to be the "organiser". That we made \$1,040, and financed with it the first electro cardioscribe for Wagga Wagga Base Hospital, was very satisfying. The Preschool Nursery Kindergarten "in a day" and the Scout Hall "in a day" were also highlights, but at the time were just part of the "job".

Chairing the 1966 National Convention in Sydney Town Hall, hosting the then Governor of NSW Sir Roden Cutler and a

number of other notable guests was a highlight, as was chairing the business sessions when some of those clever delegates like my mate, then Zone 2 Vice President Brian Wiseman, "tried me on" with formal motions and "points of order", intended to "take the micky out of me" – all good clean fun!!!

Every Charter and Inaugural Dinner – every Convention and every successful service project completed was a highlight. My visits to overseas Clubs were highlights, but on a personal level, Life Membership of Wagga Wagga [1963] and Killara [1966] were only slightly overshadowed by becoming almost speechless when, at the 1967 National Convention President Bruce Clarke invited me [in shorts and "daggy shirt"] up onto the dais at Mildura to receive my Life Governorship in front of Ian Sinclair, MHR, his late wife Margaret, and a crowd of Apexians and wives/sweethearts.

A lot of water has passed under the bridge since those heady days of active Apex, though I still have many great friendships that carry on, many of which resurrect themselves at infrequent intervals. [These days too many are renewed at funeral services!] It is nevertheless most enjoyable to catch up. Last July I caught up with Ralph Oakley [Life Member and Zone 4 President 1965/66] in Perth and attended with him an OASIS dinner at Scarborough, meeting a number of old Apexians I hadn't seen for 30+ years. And on a yacht cruise to Eden on the south coast of NSW last November, I met up with Wollongong Life Member David Rees in Batemans Bay. David succeeded me as Zone 2 President in 1955/56. On the same trip I caught up with Ken Matthews [Ulladulla], who was a member of the Apex group that visited Singapore, Malaysia and Sri Lanka Apex Clubs with me in 1964 when I was Vice President of Apex. That's just a sample of the many old and bold Apexians I've renewed friendships with over the years

## East Maitland [NSW] supports our 'Magic Castle'

In late 1989 there was a call to the Clubs to support the maintenance of The Magic Castle Chalet at Smiggins Holes. With this East Maitland Club decided that this was for us. What a great Project to bring the Fella's together a Scheme that would combine work and social?



L-R Steve Hannan, Scott Thorley, Les Pankhurst, Wayne Peacock, John Scott, Bruce Welsh, Matthew Thomas, Kerry Fisher, Allan Thorley, Chris Salisbury, Keith Hodges.

So with that they organised a Mini bus for the first Weekend in January 1990. And the rest is history. Since then East Maitland have had member go down there every year until 1999.

The East Maitland Club has had numbers ranging from 10 to 17 member's each year and **what a time they report they have had** because they keep lining up to go back every year.

The work the Club has carried out is as follows:

- ❖ Built an enclosed area outside the caretakers room to reduce the noise and his privacy;
- ❖ Retailed the bathrooms and toilet floors;
- ❖ Assisted in the new concrete path from the road up to the front door;
- ❖ Repaired the ceiling around the huge chimney inside;
- ❖ Resealed around the outside of the huge chimney;
- ❖ Painted several times inside, the bedrooms, the beds, the common room walls and ceiling;
- ❖ Painted outside on the landings and the balustrades;
- ❖ Re-diverted the chimney that comes out of the slow combustion heater;
- ❖ Replaced and repaired electrical fittings;
- ❖ General maintenance to plumbing and other miscellaneous fittings;

This is just an overview of some of the work the East Maitland Members have carried out in the past 9 years of supporting this great facility that Apex is lucky enough to have built and maintained. The adventure has participants usually leaving East Maitland at approx.

5pm Fridays arriving at the Chalet in the early hours of Saturday morning and back home Sunday evenings Approx.1600 kms later. During the years they have had different 'obstacles' to get around things like having to spend a night sleeping on the F3 Freeway between Newcastle and Sydney whilst it was cut off due to bush fires; having to change trailer tyres on the side of the road; breaking down with blocked fuel filters and thinking we were spending another day waiting to find somewhere that actually carried parts for a diesel bus; and on the last trip their bus was hit by a car which took off ,with all in hot pursuit but never quiet catching up with it.

One year members took their families down and spent the week with them whilst they did the work, so it hasn't always been just the blokes.

In 1993 the Club organised and took a group of young people down for a week. It was a rewarding but sometimes frustrating week dealing with all the different personalities of the children [and the members!], but never the less very self-satisfying for those that went with them. **Perhaps more Clubs should try it?**

The East Maitland Club anticipates that in the 9 years an average of 13 members went for each trip, working approx. 1100 hours in total [which included approx. 160 hours of travelling]. East

Maitland Club can only say that its members are committed to the Apex Chalet, and they are planning to be there again next year, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> week in January.

**Editor's note:** This is an indication of the support that Apex Clubs can provide to the Apex Foundation's Underprivileged Childrens Trust, which is **always** in need of financial and physical support. **Perhaps your Club could choose to support the 'Magic castle' as your contribution to this year's Apex Australia Scheme?**

If you would like to know more, contact

Foundation Director Mike Fitze  
02 9520 3559 [H] 02 9524 3916 [W]  
or by E-mail on

[civics@onaustralia.com.au](mailto:civics@onaustralia.com.au)  
or contact Executive Director  
Andrew Phillips.

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# APEX - TOURING QUEENSLAND

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### "Apex House" becomes a reality

#### IT ONLY COST \$320,000 FOR QUEENSLAND APEXIANS

On Friday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1999, history will be created by Apex Queensland. A project that was initiated in 1996 to build a state of the art accommodation block at the Royal Children's Hospital, will be officially opened and named "Apex House". The accommodation block will be used by the parents and families of seriously ill or injured children from all over Queensland and Northern NSW who need accommodation whilst their children are hospitalised.

The project will have spanned 4 State Boards/Committees and 2 project coordinators from the Hospital. The success of the project is not due to any one person but overall it belongs to the Apex members who shed sweat raising the funds and invested their time and efforts in helping Queensland's kids.

The project came about after discussions between the State President of the day, Terry Russell, and the CEO of the Royal Children's Hospital Foundation ["RCHF"], Gail Schurer. Terry was shown around the limited facilities of Leonard Lodge and given a preview of the much-needed extensions. After meeting with members of his Board, they agreed to put a proposal to the Members of Apex Queensland to hold a doorknock on June 29<sup>th</sup> 1996. After a moving presentation to the 1996 Mackay State Convention the whole State voted to commit to the Doorknock. Gary Carter then took on the role as Chairman and a Doorknock took place over the weekend of 29/30 June. Sadly, the fundraiser was far from a huge success, mainly due to the fact that support from the Clubs had waned due to time constraints, making it difficult to plan such a poten-

tially major fundraising event.

In true Apex tradition, the next step was that at the following State Convention, Apex Queensland voted overwhelmingly to

continue to support the project, and make good its commitment. Targets for the Clubs were set on a per capita basis, and all Clubs were given the opportunity to conduct their own project, on a "what works for them" in their respective areas basis.

The Staff at the RCHF must also take some of the credit for the success of this major fundraiser. Their constant communication with the Clubs; suggesting projects; and willingness to visit Clubs and getting down on a ground level helping Apexians run their project was nothing less than inspirational. Every time the momentum slowed, the RCHF team would get on the phones and get updates on the progress. It was very difficult to put the project "on the back burner". Before long, Clubs that were originally negative toward the project started to participate and the goal started to look achievable.

During the course of the project several of our own members had cause to use the facility first hand. [Now] Immediate Past State President Len Ebel and



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his wife Shirley, who is also an Apexian, stayed at the facility while their son Nathan [who plans to become an Apexian after his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday] was being treated in Hospital. This brought the project into the hearts of many Queensland Apexians and brought about a realisation all of us are only an accident, or a trip to the doctor, away from needing to use this type of facility. It is something that we hope will never happen to us but the truth is that we are all mortal.

Many Apex Queensland Clubs have made outstanding achievements in fund raising for this project. Mt. Gravatt, Gympie, Sandgate, Maleny Clubs, just to mention a few. Some of the smaller Clubs gave until they bled because of their solemn commitment to support Aussie Kids. Along the way some Clubs held functions at the new facilities. Sandgate and Redlands Apex Clubs held an interclub visit there, and catered for all of the families in residence. It wasn't just the food that was a huge hit with the families, it was also the opportunity to socialise and meet some of the guys who had been raising the funds to ensure that the facility was available.

At Christmas, several Greater Brisbane District Clubs got together and held their Children's Christmas Parties at the new accommodation and, once again, it was Apex's shout for the "residents". Every child received a present from Santa and those unable to attend the party were given a bed-side visit by "the man in Red".

With 99% of the commitment raised, and a belief that Apex Queensland had been drained, then SVP John Forsyth wondered how on earth Apex Queensland could find the extra money to make the target. John was then offered a challenge by Past State President Terry Russell and Sunshine Coast "character" Paul

Tresise, at the 1999 Executive Training School. If the promoters could convince Clubs, and those present at the ETS and Ipswich's 60<sup>th</sup> Dinner held to coincide, to come up with the balance needed, John would have to shave his head! They were so close, so John was looking nervous, even more so when two Clubs offered to come to the party with the last \$1,000 if **Executive Director and Life Governor Andrew Phillips would also have his head shaved.** Without hesitation, Andrew leapt onto the stage and in a matter of seconds he was turned into a bowling ball look-alike. With the \$320,000 now committed it was John's turn. After a quick "slash and burn" it was all over. No hair, but \$320,000 in the bank and promised!

On September 3<sup>rd</sup> John and others involved will stand proudly before the crowd assembled, as the fourth State President to be associated with this very worthwhile project. John will be joined by those Queensland State Presidents who went before him, Life Members Terry Russell, Gary Carter and Immediate Past Queensland State President Len Ebel. It will be a celebration of a **great achievement for Apex Queensland** but, most of all, it will be a celebration for the Children of Queensland.

*[History and Input from Past State President, Sandgate Life Member Terry Russell and article written by Apex Queensland 1999/2000 State President John Forsyth and edited by "The Apexian" staff]*

## Special Apex Visitor

Members of the Leongatha Apex Club entertained a special visitor from the Philippines in May. Romeo Race who was a Founders Fund Traveller and National Treasurer of the Apex Club Philippines visited Victoria during their ETS and then onto being hosted by various Apex Victoria Districts.

Romeo's tour of South Gippsland included a visit to a number of the local tourist sights.

The Leongatha Apex Members hosted a traditional Aussie Apex barbecue dinner at the Leongatha Apex Caravan Park, followed by a trip to the Latrobe Valley.

*Romeo Race pictured presenting Grant Piccott, fellow Apex Member of Terang, with a banner from Apex Philippines, whilst Leongatha Member Glenn Fawcett looks on.*



## Visitors to Cobar will witness Apex Club initiative

Cobar Apex Club Inc. have been successful in obtaining a Road Safety Grant from the Roads and Traffic Authority. This grant, in conjunction with monies from the Gilgunnia Centenary Committee, Cobar Shire Council and Cobar Apex, will go towards improvements to the Gilgunnia Rest Area, 109 kms South of Cobar on the Kidman Way.

Improvements will include erection of an eating shelter; toilet block; electric BBQ; and rainwater tank. Landscaping will also take place and it has been suggested that the mining history of Gilgunnia be placed on display at the rest area.

Cobar Apex would like to thank the Gilgunnia Centenary Committee for their support for this project, and wishes to acknowledge the Western Region of the RTA for this opportunity to carry out such a community project.

Any donations and/or ideas for the Rest Area improvements will be given due consideration. Work on the site is

to be carried out by members of Cobar Apex Club and the Gilgunnia Centenary Committee in conjunction with Cobar Shire Council.

Cobar Apex sees the Gilgunnia Rest Area as a **major deterrent to driver fatigue** and by implementing these improvements it is hoped that this will have the desired effect of reducing the road carnage by providing a **suitable place to stop on an otherwise lonely road.**

Although a small Club, the Apex Club of Cobar does its bit for the "local" community when and where it can. This project will be seen as a major improvement to the Kidman Way.

Any new members and Apexian visitors to the Cobar area are always made more than welcome. The club meets every 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday night at the Empire Hotel at 7:30 pm. Come along for a quiet drink and a meal and help the community of Cobar.

Nigel Petersen  
President of Cobar Apex Inc.

# Glenelg [SA] Apex Club and the Fourth Ideal

During 1984, the South Australian public donated to an appeal, backed by radio and print media, to bring a young Filipino girl, Cherry Alensub, to Adelaide for Cranio-Facial surgery.

During 1985, it was confirmed that there were sufficient funds from the appeal to assist another child, namely Teresita Abcede. The South Australian Cranio-Facial Unit of the Adelaide Children's Hospital agreed to the treatment for Teresita.

The Apex Club of Glenelg was approached to coordinate Teresita's visit. Teresita Abcede, then aged 9, was from Pitogo, Quezon Province in the Philippines. She lived in a village, approximately 300 kilometres from Manila. It is understood that living conditions at that time in Pitogo were extremely primitive, compared to Australian standards. Teresita's diagnosis was Meningo-Encephalocele. She was accompanied to Adelaide by her mother, Emelyn Abcede. Teresita's aunty, Linda Teslik, of Hallett Cove Estate [S.A.], assisted with accommodation etc.

During November 1985, the Glenelg Apex Club was approached for financial assistance to pay the travel and other costs. An initial budget of \$600 was allocated for this project. Costs in excess of \$4000 were paid by the Club. Teresita's family did not have the necessary finances to meet these costs. There were major logistic problems in the Philippines and who would have thought ex-President Marcos would call an election for the day Teresita was due to leave for Australia. The Club therefore were challenged by the enormous logistic difficulties, and set out to overcome the many challenges.

The majority of Filipinos do not have the resources to pay for major surgery. The basic wage was 1,000 pesos [\$Aus80] per month. We Australians certainly live in the "Lucky Country".

After many, many problems [both here and in Manila], rescheduling flights, and with Australian Government assistance, Teresita and her mother arrived in Adelaide on 13<sup>th</sup>

## A "MODEL" FOR ALL .....

February 1986.

Teresita underwent three major operations at the Cranio-Facial Unit during her initial stay in Adelaide. Between her visits to hospital, Teresita attended school at the Seacliffe Primary School and coped ex-



*Teresita - the week prior to leaving Adelaide May 1988*

tremely well at Year 3 level. Due to her condition, Teresita was unable to attend school in the Philippines. Whilst Teresita was here in Adelaide, there were complications. It was necessary to have multiple operations; delays to surgery due to a broken arm and a serious sinus infection. It was also necessary for her, 12 months later to return to Adelaide for further surgery to protect the frontal region of the skull. Teresita returned home to the Philippines in February 1987.

During September 1987, the Apex Club of Glenelg was requested by the Hospital to once again coordinate Teresita's return to Adelaide for final tests and corrective surgery and this was scheduled for 5<sup>th</sup> January 1988. Due to the generosity of many sponsors, Teresita and her mother arrived and, once again, spent Christmas in Adelaide. Surgery was successful and Teresita was able to return home and hopefully be given a chance to live a normal life amongst her own people. Teresita and her mother left Adelaide on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1988 and returned to the Philippines.

Since Teresita's return to the Philippines, a family of a Glenelg Life Member have maintained regular contact with Teresita and her family. It was decided with the support of the Glenelg Apex Club and vari-

ous sponsors to sponsor Teresita's education. This sponsorship also included her sisters Grace and Tina.

They have all now matriculated and have, or are, completing Tertiary studies. Grace has completed Radar/Radio studies; Tina nursing and Teresita is completing Business Management.

For many years Teresita's father lived and worked in Manila with the family many miles away in Lucban. With the generous assistance of sponsors, including their Glenelg family sponsor, an investment in a small market garden operation was undertaken and the family is now able to be together and be self-supportive with a regular living income.

Teresita is now 21 years of age and is in good health. Except for glasses, she has had very few medical problems since her return to the Philippines.

Without the excellent support and generosity of Apexians at the Bay [Glenelg, S.A.], and numerous sponsors, [including State and Federal Governments; the Adelaide Children's Hospital; and the magnificent team of surgeons and support staff at the Cranio-Facial Unit], Teresita and her family's future would have been bleak.

In Teresita's case, Apex can truly say "IT GOT IT DONE".

Tony Schar

Life Member Apex Club of Glenelg  
[whose family is the "sponsor"]



*Back row - Tina, Teresita, Grace  
Front - Cornelio and Emelyn*



# 1999 Apex National Convention

## Decisions of the 1999 National Convention

The Association recently held its Annual National Convention at the Gold Coast. Like all of our Conventions, this gave us the chance to develop our direction as an Association for the next year, and beyond. That direction can be through the things that we do and the causes that we undertake to support. However they also provide the opportunity to change what Apex is, and its position in our communities. Recent changes to include Womens and Mixed Gender Clubs are an example.

So what happened at this year's National Convention?

### Rule Changes

Many motions were strictly house-keeping motions, to tidy up and clarify our Rules. Necessary, but not very interesting, and certainly not the subject of much debate. For completeness, a summary of the results of all of the motions can be found at the end of this article.

However there were several motions that are of more interest and relevance to all members, and I will look at these in more detail, including their implications and some of the discussions and arguments that took place.

### 45 Age Limit

Item 20 of the Agenda sought to raise the retiring age for active members of Men's and Mixed Clubs to the age of 45 years, which was consistent with the retirement age for Women's Clubs.

This required a three quarter majority, and was **obtained** by a vote of 48 for and 11 against.

Debate on the floor was well considered. Pertinent facts as to the demographics of today's society compared to forty years ago were introduced, showing that men and women are getting married, having children and generally getting established in life some five or more years later. This was sug-



gested as a reason why members are joining later in life, and why the 40 age limit was restricting the opportunities for too many members.

What are the implications?

Active members are required to retire at the end of the Apex year in which they turn 45 years of age. Members may elect to retire if they have reached the age of 40, but they would not be eligible to rejoin any Apex Club at a later date.

Members who have previously undergone enforced retirement at the age of 40 may be invited to rejoin an Apex Club, if they are still under the age of 45 and meet the Club's current requirement. Past members would need to apply for membership, and this nomination would be dealt with in the same way as any new member. If those who have received Life Member and/or Senior Active Membership this past year wish to continue, Association's records will indicate "continuing membership" until reaching age of 45 in that person's details.

For those Life Members and Senior Actives who received this status prior to 98/99 Apex Year and still under the age of 45, if accepted into a Club, would retain the status of Life Member or Senior Active, but would also be entitled to all rights and obligations associated with active mem-

bership. So an active Life Member or Senior Active (for want of a better description) may take on any Club or Association position, and has full voting rights at all levels in the Association, if they are "active" and under 45.

But what of the members who were due to retire at 30th June 1999? Do they need to apply for membership if they wish to continue their active role in Apex? No. Such members may continue, without applying to rejoin their Club. In fact for census purposes, it is assumed that they will continue to be members, unless the Club advises the National Office that they have in fact retired. A Census Update will address this matter.

### District Governors

Item 27 of the Agenda sought to reintroduce District Governors onto the State Committees, while also separating the roles of State Secretary and Treasurer, and giving the option of up to 5 Regional Directors on the State Committee. Once again this required a three quarter majority, **achieved** by the 55 for to 4 against vote.

The overwhelming consensus was that the experiment of the past two years, where DG's were not involved directly on the State Committees, **did not work**. The cost savings achieved were seen as false economy. The involvement of the District Governor in the affairs of the State and the Association became too remote, creating communication problems between the Clubs and the States and Association.

The cost of including the DG's back onto the State Committees will see an increase in the Budgets for the States, with an increase in the State Fees for each Club. However the clear consensus of your Delegates was that

*(Continued on page 26)*

this would provide a much more effective voice and support for Clubs.

### Apex Logo

Item 30 of the Agenda sought to change the Apex logo, by replacing the word 'International' with the word 'Australia', and giving recognition to the unique place that Apex holds within Australia, and that we are the Australian made service organisation.

The change was not intended to downplay the role of International Relations, but was seen as an affirmation of our Australian identity, and our pride in that identity. The fact that the previous logo was introduced to coincide with the formation of Apex International, which ceased to exist two years ago, was not lost on the Delegates.

Clubs will be sent copies of the new logo, **which should be used whenever new items bearing our logo are produced.** Clubs are free to use existing material bearing the old logo. Apex Supply House will gradually be introducing the new logo onto their merchandise.

It is also seen as a great opportunity for most Clubs to update their old and frequently dilapidated Apex signs, with new and fresh signs proudly displaying the new logo. New Town Signs are available from Apex Supply House.

### Life Membership

A late agenda item was introduced, after discussion by the National Board. This item changed the By Law dealing with the qualifications for Life Membership.

The changes aim to give Clubs

more flexibility in deciding who they bestow the honour of Life Membership upon. The previous minimum qualifications required that four mandatory conditions be met, and five of eleven optional conditions be satisfied.

Two of the previously mandatory conditions are now optional conditions. These are the requirements that the member concerned has been an active member for eight years, with five years as a Club/District/ State/ Association officer. This change recognises that some members give exceptional service for a number of years, but because they were in Apex for less than eight years, they could not even be considered for Life Membership.

The other major change is the previous requirement Life Membership could only be awarded to members in their last year of active service or to past members. This has now been removed, so that active members may be awarded Life Membership.

This is seen as a move to recognise our exceptional members, and to maintain their involvement as active members.

### Ballots

Two secret ballots of the delegates were conducted at the Convention.

The first was for the election of the 1999/2000 National Vice President (male). The two nominees were Rod Bosman and Steve Gribbin, with Steve being the successful candidate.

The other was the selection of the host for the 2001 National Convention. The nominations were for Conventions at Townsville (Qld),

Busselton (WA) and at Warrnambool (Vic). Warrnambool was the successful candidate, with the Convention is to be organised by the South West Victorian District.

The results of the ballots of Clubs for the Apex Australia Scheme and Apex Australia Project were also announced, with the ballot papers from the Clubs being returned by the delegates.

**The Apex Foundation** will be the beneficiary of our collective efforts over the next year, being voted in as the **Apex Australia Scheme**.

The successful nomination for the **Apex Australia Project, Kids HelpLine**, will continue to receive the support of Apex, and will be the beneficiary of a specific fundraiser that Clubs will be able to participate in.

### In Summary

Conrad Jupiters, provided an excellent venue for the business sessions of the National Convention. I was very impressed by the attitude of your Delegates, who assisted in getting through the business of the Convention.

Reflecting upon the decisions of the Convention, the change to the 45 age limit will be extremely well received, but it is up to us to ensure that it works for us.

As I said after Mixed gender Clubs were introduced, just because we have doubled the pool from which we can draw members, does not mean that we will double our membership. We still need to provide an attractive Club, and then ask people to become involved!

Andrew Eastaugh  
1998/1999 National Secretary/Treasurer

## NATIONAL CONVENTION PHOTOGRAPHS

REFER TO PAGES 32 & 33 FOR SAMPLE OF PHOTOGRAPHS AVAILABLE

The National Office has had made available to it photographs from the National Convention, including the frivolity and fellowship; State group photographs and many others.

If you remember having been photographed, and would like a copy, **please contact the National Office and arrangements will be made to get copies to you.**

At National Convention, copies **cost \$10 but this is a once only offer of \$7.50 of which \$2,50 will go to the Apex Australia Scheme to support the Apex Foundation.**

Don't miss an opportunity to get a record of your attendance at a terrific opportunity for fellowship and making new friends, the 1999 Gold Coast National Convention.

## SUMMARY OF THE MOTIONS FROM THE 1999 NATIONAL CONVENTION

ITEM No	SUMMARY OF THE MOTION	RESULT
15	By-Law concerning delegate to the 1999 National Convention	Carried
16	Renumbering of By-Laws	Carried
17	By-Law to cover retirement age for Mixed Gender Clubs	Carried
18	By-Law concerning positions at post end of year Association Board and Convention	Carried
19	Constitutional change, State Vice Presidents are male and female	Carried
20	a) Constitutional change, uniform retirement age of 45 b) By-Laws re 45 retirement age, as amended	Carried Carried
21	Constitutional change to the positions on the Association Board, amended to exclude the immediate past National President	Carried
22	By-Law concerning the Directors of Apex Consolidated Industries	Carried
23	a) Constitutional change to enable separate National Secretary and Treasurer b) Changes to By-Laws to reflect the separate National Secretary and Treasurer	Carried Carried
24	Involvement with QUEST and Lions	Carried
25	Best Practice to disallow repetition of business at National Conventions	Lost
26	By-Law specifying operation of National Standing Committees	Carried
27	a) Constitutional change regarding the make up of State Committees b) By-Laws and Best Practices to reflect part (a)	Carried Carried
28	By-Law concerning profits and losses of State Committees	Carried
29	Committee established to draft Life Governor guidelines	Carried
30	Constitutional change to the Apex logo	Carried
31	Adoption of the Apex Plan for the Future	Carried
LATE #1	Best Practice change, to make the National Fee entirely per Capita based	Lost
LATE #2	By-Law change, Associates must be at least 16 years of age	Carried
LATE #3	By-Law change, so delegate at National Convention need not be from the District	Carried
LATE #4	By-Law to enforce the Association to give at least 30 days written notice of Fees	Carried
LATE #5	By-Law regarding pecuniary gain and employment of members	Carried
LATE #6	By-Law minimum standards for Life Membership	Carried
LATE #7	Best Practice requiring National Convention agenda items to include a plain english explanatory note	Carried
BUDGET	Adoption of the National Budget for 1999/2000, as amended	Carried



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# National Award Achievers 1998/1999



During the recent 1999 National Convention held on the Gold Coast, Queensland at Conrad Jupiters from 7th-10th July, 1999 a special "Awards Luncheon" was held to acknowledge those members within our Association who have "achieved that extra mile." The ordinary people in our Apex clubs who have indeed achieved extraordinary things! The National Awards Lunch was attended on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> July by 200 Conventioneers who witnessed the acknowledgment of nominees and the presentation of the Association's prestigious National Awards for the 1998/1999 year. For those not in attendance you will now find a precis of the 1998/1999 details below .....

Leanne Songer, National Vice President 1998/1999

## • Apexian of the Year Award

Awarded to an Apexian who has fully upheld the ideals of the Association and contributed to their club and community in an exemplary manner.

### The nominees were :-

Mark Fletcher, Whyalla SA/NT  
Alan Weir, Brisbane Valley QLD

### And the winner was :- Alan Weir, Brisbane Valley QLD

Alan joined Apex on 26<sup>th</sup> March, 1987. Taking on the role of club President in 89/90 and again in 97/98 Alan has been director of most club portfolios in his twelve years of membership. Alan was the 98/99 Lockyer/Fassifern Apex District Apexian of the Year, at the Queensland State Convention he was awarded the 1999 Queensland Apexian of the Year and is now the proud winner of the National Apexian of the Year Award. His list of achievements for which he has been awarded this prestigious award include (but are not exhaustive).....

State Convention Chairman and Secretary; achieved 100% dinner attendance; completed 165 service hours and approx 380 admin hours; attended National, State and eight (8) District conventions; spent 50 hours involved in special projects; adjudicator at High school debating, Lions Public Speaking and TSHS Public Speaking competitions; Public Relations Officer, Runner/Strapper and Player for B.V. Rugby League Football Club; Compiler of nominations for Australia Day Awards, Business of the Year

Nominations and Civic Certificate of Appreciation; Master of Ceremonies for Brisbane Valley Multi-cultural Festival; Teacher at Toogoolawah State School supporting activities of fete, dance, sporting events and awards night. All of this and..... husband of one and father of four!

### • Dianne English Apexian of the Year Award (Female)

Awarded to an Apexian who has fully upheld the ideals of the Association and contributed to their club and community in an exemplary manner.

### The nominees were :-

Bev Freeman, Gawler Women's SA/NT  
Mary Harmer, Mackay Women's QLD  
Judy Waters, Horsham VIC

### And the winner was :- Bev Freeman, Gawler Women's SA/NT

Bev is a founding member of her club, since February 1991. Holding the role of club President in 94/95 and again for six months of 1996, Bev was awarded a Zonta "Women's of Achievement Award" in 1997 for her service to the community. It was then onto the role of State Vice President for 98/99, whilst also holding the club portfolio of Social Director and her list of achievements for which she has been awarded this prestigious award. These include (but are not exhaustive).....

mentoring the Gully Women's Apex Club in their first year as they work towards chartering; researching and presenting the Fiji

Schools Book project to the State Convention where the project received support and then continuing with the liaison of this project; organising the State's Secondary School Public Speaking and Debating competitions in SA/NT; attended National and State conventions; conducted Secretary's training course at the SA/NT ETS; a volunteer and youth worker for the Gawler & Barossa Youth Services; teaches Sunday School at the local Uniting Church; a foundation committee member for the "You Care Gawler" 1994 Outreach program; a founding member of both a youth drop-in-centre and the Abbey Youth Centre where she is a voluntary councillor to homeless and disadvantaged youth. All of this along with being a very active member of her own club and it's many activities whilst also being a tower of support to her own family and friends.

### • Sir John Buchan Young Apexian of the Year Award

Awarded to an outstanding young Apexian who during the year made an outstanding contribution to the future of Apex and who has future leadership potential.

### The nominees were :-

Peter Kurtz, Biloela QLD  
Jamie Verhoeven, Port Lincoln SA/NT

### And the winner was :- Jamie Verhoeven, Port Lincoln SA/NT

Achievements :- Jamie, aged 22 (born 15<sup>th</sup> May, 1977) joined Apex on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1998. For the past two years Jamie has held the

(Continued on page 29)

(Continued from page 28)

role as Coordinator of the Eyre Peninsula Youth Parliament Team and was appointed as the 1999 Youth Governor which is testament to the esteem by which he is held by his peers. Coupled with his years of involvement with the Naval Cadets, Jamie also received the Port Lincoln Rotary Youth Leadership Award in 1997, is a coach of junior soccer and is chairman of the Port Lincoln City Council Youth Advisory Committee. Jamie came to hear of Apex through the Port Lincoln club's mentoring at the Youth Council meetings and joined Apex shortly after. During his short membership in Apex he has already participated in a debate, attended interclub visits and is an energetic contributor to discussions at club meetings. It is envisaged that Jamie will be the catalyst for local youth to become involved in Apex on the Eyre Peninsula.

#### • District Governor Award

Awarded to the District Governor who best represented their District and the Association during the year.

#### The nominees were :-

Trevor Dansie, Riverland/Lower North District SA/NT

Jason Hunter, Wide Bay District QLD

Tony Long, Truganina District VIC

#### And the winner was :- Tony Long, Truganina District, Victoria

Achievements :- Tony's district takes in the western half of Melbourne. During the 98/99 Apex year, Tony was a consummate communicator with his newsletters for club members and a separate one for Club Presidents always a great source of information. His response to requests from his State President were always helpful and on time every time as were all his District reports. As well as keeping his District "in the know" Tony was also the Chairman of the Committee that organised the Victorian State Training Seminar and National DG school.

#### • Chris McGurgan Best Club Trophy

Awarded to a club considered to have best upheld all of the ideals of the Association.

#### The nominees were :-

Cairns, QLD

Gawler Women's, SA/NT

Parkes, NSW

Werribee, VIC

#### And the winner was :- Werribee, Victoria

Achievements :- The club has participated in the full range of Apex activities. Excelling in all areas of commitment to the ideals of Apex, their activities during 98/99 included (by no way exhaustive...)

Service/Fundraising - participated in Daffodil Day; the demolishing of the inside of a supermarket (100 service hours clocked up in the one day !); held a Trivia Night where \$1000 was raised for the Foster Grandparents Scheme;

participated in the Werribee River Recovery Project with other community groups; organised their second debutant ball; ran the Grand Final night celebrations for the Werribee Football Club; sold Road Trauma Raffle Tickets; 250

service hours were clocked up during the catering for the Emergency Services Expo; sold Christmas Trees for profit; co-ordinate the Werribee Apex/Police and Businesses Christmas Party with money raised going to the Wyndham Special Development School

- for the intellectually handicapped; in conjunction with Hoppers Crossing Cricket Club organised a Sportsman's Night;

Citizenship - representative school participated in the district Secondary Schools Debating competition; Kids HelpLine phone cards were purchased and distributed to students from Galvin Park Secondary College; hand out native Australian trees to recipients during Australian Citizenship ceremonies; participated in clean up Australia Day;

Publicity - have their own web pages on the Internet

Social/Programs - held a Brownlow Medal Night for "watching, eating, drinking and fundraising ?!"; attend the running of the Werribee Cup; Miss-A-Meal Pool Party;

Membership - won the District Membership Trophy for the second year in a row - membership standing at a healthy number of eighteen (18) members at the beginning of the year and at twenty (20) with two (2) prospective members at the end.

International Relations - twin with a Round Table New Zealand Club and sent club member David Rogers and his wife Vikki to attend the Round Tables National Convention.

District Activities - attended their own District's annual handover with club member Jeoff Ryleigh being the representative in the District Public Speaking Competition; attend the District Convention; numerous interclub visits; entered two teams in the District debating competition;

State/National Activities - attended Victorian State Convention at Stawell - won State Youth Trophy for Debutant Balls, won State Dinner Notice Award, won best convention attendance.

#### • Eric Hooper Service Award

The award is given to the club whose service project has been judged as imaginative and workable, of definite community benefit as befits the Apex service ideal.

#### The nominees were :-

Brisbane Valley, QLD for their Christmas Tree Project

Corrigin, WA for their "Cobber Dog in a Ute Queue" project

Gawler Women's, SA/NT for their Christmas Riverbank Display project

#### And the winner was :- Gawler Women's, SA/NT

Project :- The club members have created an annual static Christmas Display of Australian creatures, complete with illumination and accompanying Christmas music which is nestled on the picturesque riverbank of the South Para River adjacent to Apex Park in Gawler. The creatures in the display, range to three metres in height and are created and decorated by the club members themselves. With the assistance of husbands, partners, the Gawler Apex club members and commu-

(Continued on page 30)

(Continued from page 29)

nity tradesmen, the display is erected in its natural bush type setting each festive season. Characters in the display include Santa with his six white boomers, Carolling Cockatoos, a Ringtail Possum with a present, a Koala eating Christmas pudding, two Wombats pulling a giant Christmas Cracker with the new edition for the 1998 festive season being an Australian animal nativity scene - emus, kangaroos, echidna, rosella parrot, dingo, lizards and a baby!

**• The Donald Mackay Citizenship Initiative Award**

The award is given to the Club whose citizenship initiative has been judged as imaginative and workable, have definite community benefit.

**The nominees were :-**

Geelong Women's, VIC for their 'making a difference' Women's seminar

Goolwa, SA/NT for initiating their local Recreation Community Centre

Hervey Bay, QLD for their youth Rock-Pop-Mime concert

**And the winner was :- Geelong Women's, VIC**

**Project :-** The club arranged for a citizenship seminar provided at a nominal cost for young women in the Geelong area. The benefit to the community was the availability of three excellent speakers at a low cost. The speakers were chosen for their appeal to young women. Benefits to the Club were increased community profile, possibility of new members and donation of the proceeds of the night to the Geelong Umbilical Cord Blood Bank.

The theme for the night was 'Making a Difference' to yourself and to your local community. All three speakers donated their services and the Club reimbursed travelling expenses. The speakers were Marcia Griffin (Victorian Business Woman of the Year 1996), Roxanne Bennet (local radio personality) and Fiona Richardson (from Geelong Community Policing Squad). In addition there was a short presenta-

tion on Apex and on the collection of umbilical cord blood.

**• Kava Bowl**

Presented to the District/Club which has made the greatest contribution to Overseas Service in the twelve months prior to the National convention.

**The nominees were :-**

Cooking for Kosovo - SA/NT

Passi Philippines Workparty - VIC

**And the winner was :- Apex Victoria Overseas Work Team Project Passi, Philippines**

**Achievements :-**

The 1995/96 Apex Victoria State Board set a long-term goal of undertaking an OSWT Project at the earliest opportunity. The Committee of Robert Learey, Chris Scott, James Green and Dale Alexander commenced planning the Passi Project and forming a team of twenty-five (25) volunteers to undertake the work.

Robert Learey and James Green visited Passi in November 1998, staying 2 nights. Activities undertaken during this visit included a review of Nutrition Centre plans, arranging design changes including budget savings, confirming Passi Council's ongoing commitment to the Project and arranging administration details such as banking, transport, water for consumption, meals, accommodation etc.

Apex Victoria budgeted \$3,000 per year over four (4) years, totalling \$12,000, for the Nutrition Centre works. Team members were individually responsible for airfares, accommodation, meals, bus hire, and drinking water costs etc.

The Project team was open to all Apexians, with a trade background not being essential. There was a good balance of skills in the team including building, plumbing, electrical, welding and painting trades. In addition, we had members from other professions such as, medical, farming, mechanical, real estate, law enforcement and general administration and management.

The team departed for the Philippines on Sunday 17th January

1999 and arrived back in Australia on Monday 8th February 1999. Everyone operated as a team with a common objective to complete the work. Team members learnt many new skills during the construction period and applied themselves to various tasks as required. Below is a summary of activities undertaken during Construction:

- Building external and internal wall using concrete blocks. Boxing and pouring ring beams.

- Rendering the internal and external walls.

- Welding roof trusses at sugar mill, carting to site and welding together on roof

- Erect internal and external roofing including battens, eaves and guttering

- Electrical and plumbing fit out.

- Tiling in bathroom and toilet areas

- Installing windows/doors and complete painting of building.

The Nutrition Centre was officially opened on Thursday 4th February 1999 and handed over to the Passi City Council.

**• Mary Kathleen Membership Trophy**

The trophy is awarded to the club which has the greatest increase in membership in the twelve months since the last National Convention.

**The nominees were :-**

Inglewood, VIC

Port Lincoln, SA/NT

Roma, QLD

**And the winner was :- Roma, QLD**

**Achievements :-** This club achieved an increase in 13 new or transferred members between Queensland State Conventions taking out the State membership award. Since the Queensland State Convention in February 1999, three others joined. Between National Conventions the membership number increase achieved was nine (9).

**• Senior Serving Apexian**

Awarded annually to all those members who are serving in their 22<sup>nd</sup> year of Apex or more. The recipients each receive a hand

(Continued on page 31)

(Continued from page 30)

carved walking stick for which the Association is indebted to Vic Solomon, Honorary Life Member Far North Coast District NSW.

**The 1998/1999 recipients of this award were :-**

Stephen Bendotti - Pemberton WA

Iain Evans - Stirling/Blackwood SA/NT

Trevor James - Capel WA

Christopher Langridge - Castle-maine VIC

Terry Russell - Sandgate QLD

Jim Salmon - St George QLD

Mark Salter - Huon TAS

Jim Tucker - Eidsvold QLD

David Webb - Redlands/Maural/Theodore QLD

**• John Stokes Boomerang**

Presented to the State with the highest percentage membership (yearly average) attendance at any overseas Apex Association's National Convention held during the 12 months prior to Apex Australia's National convention.

**The winner is :-**

SA/NT for sending their overseas traveller (Ian Pedley) to the Apex India National Convention.

**• Association Dinner Notice Award (Best Newsletter)**

**• Loraine Janssen Newsletter Award (Runner-up Newsletter)**

An annual competition to ascertain the best newsletter (& runner-up) produced by a club in the Association during the 12 months

ending June 30th in each year.

**The nominees were :-**

Cessnock, NSW

East Maitland, NSW

Gawler Women's, SA/NT

Launceston, TAS

Maitland Women's, NSW

Townsville Women's, QLD

**And the winners were :-**

**Gawler Women's, SA/NT**

**East Maitland, NSW**

**• Apex Week Publicity Award**

Awarded to the club which obtains the best press coverage in Apex Week.

**The nominees were :-**

Bordertown, SA/NT

East Maitland, NSW

Echuca Moama, VIC

Millicent, SA/NT

Parkes, NSW

South Riverina (Finley, Jerilderie,

Tocumwal) VIC

Swan Hill, VIC

Traralgon, VIC

**And the winner was :- Echuca**

**Moama, VIC**

Project :- Community Information Directory distributed to the community including lots of information on Apex. On March 12,

Echuca Moama organised a 4-page special spread in the Riverina herlad, titled "Apex Week - Working for the Community". Articles and photos of Club president,

Vice State President [a member of this Club], their Philippine's Bursary student, and 12 sections breaking down the 33 year history of the Club's contribution to their

many communities and a history of the progress of the Association. Also incorporated photos of 16 Active and Life Members, with contact information and a couple of general articles on the organisations that the Club has helped and the value of the friendships gained through Apex.

**• Whopper Gavel**

The gavel is awarded annually to the club which in the opinion of the Board has the best representation of active members at the National Convention having regard to the distance travelled by the most direct practicable route and the difficulties encountered in such travel.

**And the winner was :- Launceston, Tasmania**

who had three members from their club in attendance.

**• Golden Stirrer Trophy**

Presented to the most effective delegate at a National Convention.

**And the winner was :- John Martin, Wimmera District VIC**

**• Copper Oscar**

Presented for the best act performed at the Social Function of the National Convention.

**And the winner was :- South Australia (finally someone else than Victoria! But where is the trophy?!?)**

Achievement :- Sister Act with "Nun of That" - You had to be there....!??

## Apex gives student speakers a chance



*1998/1999 National President Mike Neville presents Courtney Stephen with the High School Public Speaking Trophy*

Courtney Stephen of Nuriootpa, South Australia, is the 1999 National High School Public Speaker winner. Courtney started public speaking in Year 9 when Nuriootpa High School asked if anyone would like to volunteer, as an extra curriculum subject, but in their own time. Courtney was studying Drama and Music and thought that Public Speaking would help to build her confidence

and possibly overcome her nervousness in front of an audience. So she volunteered. There was only 3 that did!

Courney continued doing Public Speaking every year, only missing out in Year 11.

Her winning speech "I want to break free" was a light-hearted look at the conformaties of

*(Continued on page 34)*







teenage life. It was humorous and it's contents captured the audience's imaginations for the full 5 minutes.

August 3, 1999

Apex

Courtney Stephen  
PO Box 141  
NURIOOTPA SA 5355

Dear Apex Members

I am writing to thank you for financing my trip to Queensland, to compete in the National final of the Apex High School's Public Speaking Competition.

I was impressed and overwhelmed by the generosity, support, and friendliness shown in all my associations with Apex.

As you can imagine, I am thrilled by my success and wish to thank Apex and all involved for giving me the chance to compete

Sincerely,

Courtney Stephen

Courtney has other talents also. She has recently competed in Melbourne at the National Workskills Competition. This was 15 hours spread over 3 days of Competitions in a mock office situation. Courtney won a Bronze Medal, but what makes it even more worthy, is that of the 3 medal winners, she is the only full-time student.

Courtney when finishing High School, would like to study Music and English at Adelaide University and her career ambitions are to become a Secondary School's Teacher of Music and English.



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## Werribee [Vic] did it!

At the 1999 Apex National Convention held at Jupiter's Casino on the Gold Coast, the Apex Club of Werribee Inc won the "Chris McGurgan Apex Club of the Year Award". This was hot on the heels after being awarded the "David Parsons Victorian Apex Club of the Year"

These greatly contested awards were won due to the outstanding achievements of the Werribee Apex Club during the 1998-99 year. There was a great Club Executive that led the club to these awards. President - Peter Comben, Secretary - Chris Murphy & Treasurer - Darren Hellmann. Most of the other Directors and Members, also made a significant contribution to the Club's success.

There were many highlights over the year, some of these are outlined below:

- The Club held a Debutante Ball at the start of the year and then **another one** at the end of the year. Both these Balls were

very profitable to the Club, as well as providing a project to the youth of their community.

- Life Membership was awarded to Gary Ryan, an exemplary Apex Member that **never missed an Apex meeting**. What dedication?

- Club members attended, and continued to attend, a large council run community project to clean up and beautify the Werribee River. An application for a grant was submitted to Parks Victoria and the Club was granted \$6,000 towards this project.

- A triple induction took place in September and on this night a presentation to the new Members was done. Readers will have heard of the saying at an induction, "Bring out the GOAT!" **well Werribee did**, a real live one.

- The National Emergency Services Expo was held in Werribee and all community service organisations within their city were involved to run the catering for this event. The Club spent over 250 hours participating with this.

- The Club also sent Member

David Rogers together with his wife Vicki to their twinning Club in New Zealand Round Table, Kau Kau Round Table near the nation's capital, Wellington.

- A large Interclub visit was done to Swan Hill for a full weekend.

- Christmas trees were sold during the year along with the Police and Businesses Xmas Party that the Club organises.

- A Truganina District run project was held and Club members put an enormous amount of work, organisation and hours into it.

- A Sportsman's Night was held by the Club in conjunction with the Hoppers Crossing Cricket Club.

- The Victoria State Convention in Stawell was very good for Werribee. They had a participant in the Secondary Schools Public Speaking Competition. The Victorian State Youth Trophy was awarded to the Club along with the Victorian State Dinner Notice Award. At the end of the Convention Werribee also were awarded

(Continued on page 35)

(Continued from page 34)

the Best Convention attendance.

▪ A Joint venture with the Werribee Plaza Tavern; "Volt Niteclub" saw the Club raise funds for the Good Friday Royal Children's Hospital Appeal Fundraiser. A total of \$3,500 was donated from this night

These are just a few of the things the Werribee Club has been involved in during the year. A lot of behind the scene things were also done for their community and Apex.

The biggest winner of these awards is their COMMUNITY and if they didn't do these things for the people of their City the Club would never have had the chance to win the awards.

To all Apex Members and other Apex Clubs that were nominated for these trophies, the Club wishes to pass their congratulations on receiving your respective State and National awards.

A special mention goes to their Truganina District Governor, Tony Long, for being awarded the D.G. of the Year.

**Editor's note:** I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Chris Murphy, Werribee Club Secretary 1998/1999 for this article. This is the kind of pride in achievement that **all** Clubs should aim for – to be reported in your National Magazine.

### **YOUR MOVE - First Aid Kit.**

### **GREAT OFFER TO APEXIANS AND CLUBS!!**



Health and Safety Australia in conjunction with World Champion Lifesaver Trevor Hendy, have joined together and developed the amazing new "Your Move" first-aid kit.

**Editor's note:** Apex members should/may remember previous lifesaving opportunities that were offered to Apex by "Your Move" promoters. Since that time they have been successfully working on a corporate-Australia sponsored safety education program for schools, and developing this product

As a lifesaver and father, Trevor Hendy has learned that most accidents occur when you least expect them, and he wants to help prepare your family and friends for when the inevitable happens. (App. 80% of homes are not sufficiently equipped with appropriate First Aid Kits).

Apart from it's comprehensive contents, this lightweight kit is unique due to it's pullout nylon haversack, which enables the kit to be carried as a small back pack - **ideal for outdoor activities.**

Extremely compact and lightweight this fantastic kit can be for the home, car, boat....anywhere an unexpected accident may occur.

The Trevor Hendy "Your Move" first aid kit has been well researched and exceeds the Australian standard requirements for first aid kits (AS 2675 - Size B).

**Health and Safety Australia has a proud community service background, and in keeping with this are making a special offer to all Apex members. At \$10 below normal retail Apex members can purchase the multi-purpose Trevor Hendy first aid kit for an amazing \$49.95 + postage & handling.**

Apex Clubs **also** have a tremendous opportunity for **fundraising** by **purchasing** the Your Move first-aid kit **at this special price**, then **selling** within their local communities for **recommended retail**, enabling wider community awareness and families being prepared in case of accidents.

**Now is your chance - don't miss this special opportunity.**

"Be there when your family & friends need you the most... order now..."

It's Your Move !!" Trevor Hendy.

**TO ORDER PHONE - 1800 352 595.**

# Apex to support Quest Life Skills



Donna Munro, National Director of Quest Life Skills Australia was pleased to attend the National Convention at the Gold Coast and have the opportunity to meet two sets of National Board members; District Governor Delegates; interested Apexians and their family supporters..

Did you know...

**The Delegates at the National Convention voted to continue Apex support of Quest programs.**

**Q. What does this mean for Apex Clubs?**

Apex and Lions Clubs can now work together to improve personal and social responsibility in our young people and to rekindle the service ethic in our schools and communities.

If a Quest workshop is being planned in your local community you can support it in a number of ways:

- 1) Sponsor a teacher to attend the workshop,
- 2) Assist with workshop catering,
- 3) Encourage local business contacts to provide some financial support. They may

wish to make a tax-deductible donation to the Australian Lions-Quest Youth

Foundation,

- 4) Pass on workshop information to local schools.

Many Lions Clubs have an aging membership, which can influence their understanding of schools and young people. Apex Clubs are in a unique position to bridge this gap, whilst sending a positive message to the community about co-operation and service.

**What a great opportunity for two of our major service organisations to work together to improve the lives of our young people in our communities.**

**Q. Do education authorities support the Quest programs?**

The Quest programs are viewed favourably by State, Catholic and

Independent systems in all states. Key personnel in state, district, regional and diocesan offices regularly assist by including workshop fliers in bulk mailouts, promoting the Quest programs in their schools, and helping with venue and catering arrangements.

Other examples of education system support include payment of teacher relief, DSP (Disadvantaged Schools Program) funding for workshop attendance, PCAP ( Priority Country Area Program) support, and significant support from Parent & Citizen Associations.

**Q. How do we know these Life Skills programs work?**

Quest frequently receive positive evaluative statements like the following from the President of the Queensland Association of State School Principals:

"I have implemented the Quest programs in three schools and they are, in my opinion, the most powerful resources for the promotion of self-esteem and for the teaching of life skills which are fundamental to effective learning. They are powerful programs not only because of their well-researched and well ordered content, but also because of the intensive and uplifting teacher training course. I have witnessed many classrooms which have been transformed socially and cognitively because of a teacher's considered and pervasive use of this exceptional material."

The spread of the programs by such word-of-mouth recommendation, and the continuing use of the Quest programs by schools who have taken them on, may be the best measure of effectiveness.

Although no large-scale evaluation projects have been conducted in Australia, many more formal evaluations in a range of countries using the Quest programs have measured significant impact on academic performance, discipline

problems, school attendance and drop-out rates.

You are welcome to contact the Quest Life Skills office for details of local and overseas evaluation information.

**Q. Why is the training necessary?**

Quest International has a mandatory teacher training policy. This means that the Quest 'core' programs are not available for sale to schools without Quest trained teachers.

This policy is founded on the belief that successful program implementation is dependent on a full understanding of not only the content and structure of a program, but also on its processes.

The Quest programs aim to develop positive attitudes and behaviours by providing opportunities for students to develop and practise essential social skills while immersing them in a positive and emotionally safe environment. At a Quest workshop, teachers have an opportunity to experience program content and processes as well as the establishment and maintenance of a positive classroom climate.

**Q. How much does it cost?**

Depending on local costs related to venue and catering, attendance at a Quest workshop costs around \$300 to \$325. For this fee, participants get two days of high quality professional development, one set of curriculum materials, workshop supplies such as workshop guidebook and resources for use during the workshop, morning and afternoon teas and lunches.

The cost of the Quest training and materials is inexpensive by many standards. \$300 - \$325 for two days of high quality professional development, including meals and over \$100 worth of curriculum resources is excellent value.

**Q. What do teachers think of Quest workshops?**

*(Continued on page 37)*

(Continued from page 36)

Participant evaluations consistently rate the workshops and trainers very highly. One of the most popular aspects of the workshops is the relaxed, informal atmosphere.

Typical participant comments include: "The best inservice I have been to in my 20 years of teaching." "Worthwhile and fun!" "Have more of our staff involved/have it at school so all staff can participate."

**Q. Can Apexians attend a workshop?**

Apexians are encouraged to attend workshops and are made very welcome. Service club members who have attended a workshop have found it a most enjoyable and worthwhile experience

as it gives them an excellent understanding of the Quest programs and a chance to talk to teachers about their use.

As Apexians do not need curriculum materials, they are able to attend at a reduced cost - usually around \$150 or a donation, depending on their Club's circumstances.

**Q. What do we do now?**

If your Club is approached by a teacher or a Lions-Quest representative seeking support for a local workshop, please give the request serious consideration.

Your support may be as simple as a small donation towards the cost of workshop attendance, or assistance with workshop catering. Whatever form it may take, Apex involvement in this vital project

is always appreciated.

If you would like more information about these important programs, please phone the Quest office on 1800 805 334.



## Fail to plan, plan to .....



Following the decision to continue to implement the "Apex Plan for the Future" the Planning Services Committee has been instructed to continue to work on models for Clubs in line with the spirit of the Plan.

**Where did this all come from?**

The Strategic Planning exercise outcomes were formulated into the Apex Plan for the Future which is an evolving process of key strategies aimed at assisting Apex Clubs retain/regain their relevance at a Community level. The immediate future of the "Apex Plan for the Future" was endorsed by acceptance of Agenda Item 31 at the

**Gold Coast Convention.**

The Planning Services Committee has on its agenda the following strategies:

1. Developing a **Club Resources Kit** to inform members what key initiatives make up their Apex Plan for the Future as well as providing information on how they may be come involved.
2. Provide a copy of the **Management Plan** to the Association's members by way of Association Board members, State Committees, District Governors, Club Presidents.
3. Provide ongoing support and information to Clubs by developing a "Best Practises" Newsletter that can accompany all Club Mailings to be reprinted in Dinner Notices etc.
4. Monitor Club progress with aspects of the Plan and lend assistance where needed.
5. Act as communicator and referral agent for the various National Standing Committees by

providing timely information to assist their strategic development particularly in the Training Services and Financial Services areas.

As you can see, Clubs themselves and all members have a role in the direction of the Association through this committee, if they wish to participate.

Any idea to help Apexians live our Ideals should be shared. All too often the only chance we get to do this is at Conventions etc which may well see the idea fall by the way.

**We now have a vehicle to drive our ideas and present them to the Association Board with enough information to make decisions and act upon the new idea immediately.**

Networking with the other Standing Committees can help improve opportunities for Clubs. The key area of membership that has been spoken about for so long and to which all too often we have not committed any re-

sources, can now have some assistance in developing options to really make a difference.

**The key players in all these areas are the individual Apexians, and, your input is sought on how we best do this for everyone's benefit.**

If you have an idea, model, strategy, or simply a thought like "wouldn't it be great if ....." idea **this Committee is very keen to hear from you.**

Contact can be made through:-

**Planning Services Committee Chairman**

**Mike Neville**

**Tel: 02 69649466**

**Mob: 0419 600207**

**Fax: 02 69649465**

**email:**

**mneville@webfront.net.au**

**or through the Executive Director at National Office**

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# Exploring the second Ideal!

*"To develop by example a more intelligent and aggressive citizenship"*



If a number of Apexians were asked to explain what our second Ideal means to them personally, I am sure there would be as many different answers as there were Apexians asked! Does this mean that Apex as a whole does not understand citizenship? I think not, it indicates that there is **no right or wrong way to interpret this Ideal** in fact individuality of thought is one of the great assets available to Apex.

If we take a 'citizen' as being a member of a community then that citizen must abide by the rules of the community or suffer the consequences imposed by the community. It flows then that **citizenship is the act of being a good citizen** and by pursuing a more intelligent and aggressive citizenship we are **improving our worth** to the community in which we live.

How does Apex promote citizenship? By providing opportunities

to Apexians, and those not lucky enough to have discovered Apex as yet, to develop both their personal skills and their community awareness.

On a personal skill level citizenship is about encouraging people to be the best that they possibly can be by improving self esteem. This can be done by public speaking, debating, taking a Board position in the Club, chairing a small committee and the **possibilities are endless!**

Your Club you could run mock job interviews, sponsor participants to self development courses; run your own AYDP (Apex Youth Development Program); set up a lobby group to improve your community - **the sky is the limit!** Get involved in community projects for example building an adventure playground; participating in a tree-planting program; adopt a section of road or highway to keep litter free; build an office. The members of your Club know the community your live in best, find a way to show that to the community by addressing **current issues**. Don't forget, **find out what your community wants/needs**.

If a project is too ambitious for your Club alone then approach other service Clubs, involve your Apex

District, seek State and National Apex support of your initiative.

On a National level, Apex is involved in promoting a range of citizenship initiatives to Clubs, not expecting Clubs to be involved in every initiative but in the hope that one or two will suit your Club and inspire your Club members. Some of the initiatives include: National Bank Community Link Awards; Federal Office of Road Safety; Quest Life Skills; Kids Help Line Peer Skills Program and National Fundraiser Apex Australia Project; National Kindness Week; Apex Foundation National Apex Australia Scheme; and the list is endless.

The most important thing to remember is that **experience gained as an Apexian can be the greatest thing that you can give to your community**. Whether it is on committees; councils; or simply being a community member - your ability to look beyond yourself to help others will be a shining example.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to discuss citizenship.

Kath Venters  
Citizenship/Youth Services  
Standing Committee Chair

*[Refer Winter Apexian insert or contact National Office]*

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# Barossa Apex celebrates 40 years of service to the community

## 1000<sup>th</sup> Dinner Meeting milestone for Club

The Apex Club of Barossa Valley has passed many milestones in its history, its biggest to date being the 100th Dinner Meeting, marking 40 years of Apex in the Barossa Valley.

Members –past and present, celebrated the achievement with a Dinner and reflected on the many great achievements and characters of the Club.

Gawler Apex Club sponsored the Club to get it started and since then the Apex Club of Barossa Valley has not looked back, contributing millions of dollars to the local community in money and the value of members' voluntary time.

First Club President, Rex Schiller and Secretary Robert Homburg are very well known in the Barossa community for their work with Apex and then beyond. The Apex Club, open for people aged between 18 and 45, has become known as a breeding ground for leaders.

Former Barossa Apex President, Bob Sloane, stated at the Dinner that he was sure he would not have been where he is in his working life had it not been for the leadership qualities he picked up through being involved in Apex. At its peak in the 1970's and '80's, the Club had 48 Members and the projects they undertook were as diverse as they were successful. Bob recalled a couple of the fundraising activities the Club ran and the fun the Members had in putting

them on. The "Die Barossa Nach", which ran for at least eight years from the early '70's was a highlight on the local calendar and was a huge success for the Club. At its worst, the event attracted at least 400 guests, while at its best, the Tanunda Show Hall was packed to the brim with up to 1000 revellers. They enjoyed traditional German music and food and the nights raised "good money".

One of the biggest money raisers for the Club was the

vice work such as marshalling at street parades and catering at functions with the well-used Apex Van, through to larger building Projects. The first project of the Club was the building of the supper room at Tanunda Soldiers Memorial Hall.

The Club contributed about \$40,000 to the establishment of the Barossa Valley Recreation Centre as well as many hundreds of man hours of work during the building phase. The car park wall at Menraiders Hill was built by Apex and the

in the Barossa Valley area, and with continued community support, will be able to do so for many years to come. The motto "Grow . Learn . Make Friends . Have Fun" is still as relevant now as it was 40 years ago. There's a great sense of mateship and camaraderie between past and present Barossa Valley Apex Club Members, and they still have lots of fun. There is always a personal reward for each individual Member – the sense of achievement and self-improvement from serving people in the community is very gratifying.



Photos: L-R [top] Inaugural and Charter President of the Barossa Valley Apex Club Rex Schiller with inaugural and Charter Secretary Robert Homburg  
Two of the local boys – Peter Feist and Dave Schilling  
Life Members Roger Dixon and Robin Sinclair travelled from the Hunter Valley and Narooma, NSW.

Golden Dozen – the distribution of dozen packs of Gold Medal Barossa Wines sent to purchasers all over Australia. The Apex Club of the Barossa Valley would buy the outstanding wines from the local wineries and would then pack them to be sent out to customers from a data base developed by the Club. It was a lot of work setting those things up but was all good fun. The Golden Dozen was one of the Club's best fundraisers, bringing in hundreds of thousands of dollars which all went back in to community projects.

The Projects undertaken by the Club include ser-

barbecue and lawn area, with Council assistance, at Kroemers Crossing [both in Tanunda] were Apex built.

Coulthard Reserve at Nuriootpa was a joint Project between the Apex Club and Council with all sheds, barbecues, seats and most of the dam construction built and/or funded by Apex.

Many hours of community work from Apexians has been put into restoring Nuriootpa's Coulthard House. This building is now the National Office of Apex Australia.

Apex is still out and about doing both service work and helping fund projects

Rick Pellen, Life Member and foundation Member, Ross Heinze and former Club and Zone President and District Governor, Ian Curren  
Current Club members [L-R] Dave Schilling, Peter Bray, Steve Marschall, Craig Westlake and Kevin Kalleske  
Former Barossa Club President, District Governor and SA/NT State President Harry Ostendorf and former Barossa member Chris Schofield



## Around the world in 18 days



*Enjoying a party in one of the rooms at FLC with, amongst others, National Kinsmen Vice President Steve Best [standing], District 7 Kinsmen Governor Peter Noel [playing guitar - no hat] and National Kinsmen President Doug Anthony [seated]*

Apex Tasmania annually makes a Travel Award to one Apexian. Generally, the award recipient attends one of the national Conventions within the international family of Apex, furthering our fourth ideal: "To promote international understanding and friendship." At the Tasmanian State Convention in 1998, the decision was made to accept Executive Director Andrew Phillips' challenge and fund travel to further strengthen the bonds with the Association of Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs in Canada. How lucky was I? I didn't know what the answer was going to be!

Executive Director (Uncle) Andy suggested that I attend a Fall Leadership Conference (FLC) - we had a plan! District (sort of like our old zones) 7 includes Fredericton, New Brunswick Kinsmen Club with whom my Club (Launceston) had recently been twinned. So it seemed appropriate to try for that District's FLC. The FLC was being held in St John's, Newfoundland, which is like the Tasmania of Canada - an island province (state) whose residents are the butt of many jokes, so it seemed doubly appropriate that I would be going there.

After lot of organising, reorganising and final organising the tickets were issued, and I was off. It turns out that the most cost-efficient way to get to the east coast of north America and back, with a number of other stops, is to go around the world - so I did. Fifty-one hours after leaving home I arrived in Montreal, Quebec, knowing that District 4 Kinsmen Governor Peter Yerdon would be there to pick me up, which fortunately he was; unfortunately I found out that I was staying in

Brockville, Ontario, another 2 hours drive away. I therefore gave thanks when we arrived at local Kinsman Doug Phillip's home, especially to Doug's mother who had the good sense to send over a Thanksgiving meal for me. And so, the scene was set for two and a half wonderful, memorable weeks (although I'm not sure I remember it all).

I had more to be thankful for. When Peter informed me that he'd arranged a free day for me the next day as it was about 11pm local time when we got into Brockville, and there was some concern about jet-lag. What I later discovered is that it actually takes about 2 days for the jet lag to really kick in. And just as I got used to one time-zone change, I up and changed again, so my body was in a relatively constant state of shock. Canada is a huge country, but I managed to traverse from east to west. Naturally, I don't blame the lack of sleep or the consumption of alcohol at all!

From Brockville I went to St Johns for the FLC; which (surprise, surprise) involved lots of fun and fellowship, little sleep and some great business sessions. From St Johns I went on to Fredericton where I stayed with National President Doug Anthony (a real-life Mountie) and his family. It was then on to Calgary, Alberta for a couple of nights with Stampede City Kinsmen President Alan Martin and one with Calgary Kinsmen President Rick Kimura and family. And finally to Nanaimo, British Columbia, with Kinette District Governor Cathy and husband, District's Secretary, Dale Johns, where I also got to go to a Halloween party. Quite simply, all of these people, and everyone else I met along the way (too numerous to mention) extended to me the most amazing hospitality - so much so that I want to go back sometime!

On the Saturday night of the FLC I managed a pretty good double. I was screeched in, thus becoming an honorary "Newfie" (one from Newfoundland) which involves, amongst other things, dancing a jig, kissing a fish and sculling the local rum (Screech). I also got I my "Kin Puff" on my fourth, and final, at-

tempt (are then any other "Kin Puffers" out there in Apex-land). The "Kin Puff" involves three ounces (per try) of Screech, or other hard drink, and a rather elaborate drinking routine. Later that night I went out with Kinsman Gary Levy and survived - which I'm told is quite a feat; we went to George Street, St. Johns, which has the highest concentration of pubs in the world - what a great place to take an Australian Apexian, got to love those Canadians!

As for fellowship, I tried my best to hold up the Apex tradition. During the whole of the FLC the hand of friendship was extended to me many times and by everyone I met; unfortunately for me that hand normally contained a beverage for my consumption in recognition of new-found (and Newfoundland) friends. It seems to me too that there was some sort of "tag-team-entertain-Simon relay" going on, because every time I turned around there was someone else there extending another hand of friendship, and this went on well into the wee hours. Originally it was planned that I would share a room with four Kinsmen - I have to thank Kinsman National Vice President Steve Best who came to my rescue and found me a spare bed in his room - it's just that I didn't use it much.

Along the way I got to attend five Kinsmen and/or Kinette meetings, although three of them were budget-ratification meetings which got a bit tiresome. I even survived a speaking engagement at the District's Kinette FLC, in Edmonton, Alberta - but I do have to admit that as an Australian male, talking to a group of about 120 Canadian females was probably the easiest "gig" I had! I was also shown some great sightseeing, including the Thousand Island area (where the salad dressing comes from) near Brockville, Ontario; St Johns, Newfoundland; the Rocky Mountains in Alberta and British Columbia and Vancouver Island and I got to go to a fight (read ice hockey game).

The knowledge of Australia and things Australian amongst the Kins-

*(Continued on page 42)*

men and Kinettes I met was amazingly high, although many were surprised to discover we're not just one big desert, and that our seasons are not just one long summer. This knowledge is largely due to television; while 36 channels (and more) mainly mean 36 channels of rubbish, there are a couple of educational channels. These channels often show programs on Australia, though I was more than a bit worried to discover that Troy Dan's "Outback Adventures" rated a slot on one of them. And for the record, the most commonly asked question from the school groups I spoke to was "Which way does the water flush down your toilet?"

As well as everyone who made the trip so outstanding, there are some people I must thank. This includes (but is not limited to, and I apolo-

gise for any omissions) Executive Directors Andrew Phillips (Apex), the National Office staff, and Marion Price (Kin) who made it happen; Apex Tasmania State President David Stearnes; the entire Apex Club of Launceston (for nominating me for the award and for putting up with me in the lead-up to the trip); the 1997-98 Apex Tasmania Executive (Mark Fishwick, Phil Pregnell and David Stearnes); Apexian

David Reed from Carlson Wagonlit Travel in Adelaide (for helping with the itinerary and for making multiple late changes); and my wife Deanne (for her continued patience and support). Going to Canada to visit the Kinsmen and Kinettes was the highlight of my Apex career to date, and a most enjoyable way to grow, learn, make friends and have fun.

There are many similarities and differences between our two fabulous organisations. Both groups (Apex and Kin) are struggling with many of the same issues - gender, age, and membership attraction and retention. At the heart of each is a great group of people dedicated to improving their communities and themselves. If you ever get a chance to visit our Kin friends - take it!



Celebrating being "Screeched In" with fellow screechers Kinsmen Bob Coffey and Kevin Campbell and screechers District 7 Kinette Governor Barb Reynolds and District 7 Service Director Sharon King

Simon Higgins  
Apex Tasmania Travel Award  
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## The tradition continues ....

Life Member of Apex Club of Mt. Gravatt [Qld] Peter Huth, was delighted when his eldest daughter Kate decided to join his old Apex Club. His delight was even greater when the Members asked him to induct her. Peter spent 22 years in Apex and still has a long lasting respect for Apex, what it has done and what it can do for members and the community of Australia.

The photo shows Life Member Peter Huth inducting newest member Kate Huth into Mt. Gravatt Apex Club. The smiles are genuine!

*This brief article contributed by a proud wife and mother - Alison Huth*



30 July, 1999

Mr Andrew Phillips  
Executive Director  
Apex Clubs of Australia  
PO Box 608  
MURKIGOTTA SA 5333

Dear Mr Phillips,

Many thanks for the donation of \$170.00 from the members of the Association of Apex Clubs of Australia. This money, in full, will be used for our projects for children in Papua New Guinea. An official cash receipt is attached.

As explained in the book, our PNG (Tasmanian Relief) Annual had closed. The number of people involved in the Papua New Guinea relief work dropped to around 8,000. Thanks to the wonderful support of the Australian people, Save the Children and other organisations received adequate funds to assist the survivors of this particular tragedy. We were most very grateful for your agreement to spend the money on our other projects in Papua New Guinea.

To you and to all the members of your organisation, on behalf of the children we serve, thank you for your generous support for our work.

Yours sincerely,

*Carol Hines*  
Carol Hines  
Executive Director

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## Fundraiser - at last something Apexians know something about

Apex Australia has negotiated an excellent opportunity for Apex Clubs/Districts/State Committees to undertake a fundraiser that a large number of our members will have some knowledge of the product – wine!

Miranda Wines is a well-known Australian producer of premium quality wines, with wineries in the Riverina [at Griffith], the Barossa Valley [at Rowland Flat] and in the "high country" of the King Valley [near Glenrowan, Victoria].

An opportunity exists for Apex to raise much-needed funds at a time when all [or at least the majority] of Australians will be looking at their wine supplies and stocking up for Christmas. Clubs, home supplies, office parties and celebrations generally provide a great potential source to raise much-needed funds by selling quality wines.

### WHAT'S THE DEAL?

Miranda Wines have offered the following wines:

**White Wine** – Chardonnay - \$38 per dozen

**Red Wine** – Shiraz Cabernet [a recent award winner] - \$38 per dozen

**Port** – Tawny Port - \$38 per dozen



Chardonnay	Shiraz Cabernet	Tawny Port
1999 Harvest. The juice for this wine was cold fermented in stainless steel to retain the delicate fruit characters. This unoaked Chardonnay highlights the fresh varietal fruit characters. Accompaniment for many dishes including chicken or creamy pasta dishes.	1999 Harvest. The freshly crushed grapes were fermented cool using several different techniques including extended skin contact to ensure that the maximum flavour and colour is extracted. The wine is full flavoured and fresh with distinctive fruit characters that will develop with bottle age. Ideal accompaniment for duck, beef, pasta dishes or mature cheeses.	Aged using a modified solero system. Tawny brown with a burnt orange hue. Rich prune like raisin fruit aroma, complexed with buttery vanilla characters from long oak maturation. A luscious port of great fruitiness and softness. Well balanced, good depth of flavour with a rich lingering finish. Delicious with rich desserts or perfect for sipping with dried fruit and nuts, cheese and coffee.

### WHAT'S IN IT FOR US?

Recommended selling price is \$79 per dozen. So, work it out for yourselves!

Freight must also be added at the rate of:

**16-63 cartons - \$3.50 per carton**

**64 cartons [1 pallet] - \$2 per carton**

These rates are to most capital cities with rates into the major regional centres, Western Australia and Tasmania, at \$1.50 per carton. If you wish to have deliveries elsewhere, please contact the Executive Director at National Office for the freight rate.

The above prices are Sales Tax Exempt and therefore all funds raised must be used for costs/donations relating to the Service Account and/or used for the charitable and benevolent purposes of the Club/District/State Committee. Also, funds that are used to purchase this fundraiser for the service and/or charitable and benevolent purposes must come from the Service Account.

### WHAT DO WE HAVE TO DO?

Orders must be received at the National Office by 15 October, 1999. As there will be a 5 week lead time, delivery will occur to a central place nominated on or about 19 November 1999.



BAROSSA RIDGE

The labelling of the products will be a standard Miranda label that is used for the product that is sold through their Barossa Cellar Door, "Barossa Ridge", with a logo and small notation that "this product was selected by the Apex Clubs of Australia for their fundraising efforts", or words to that effect.

It would be preferred if wine could be ordered in multiples of 16 cartons, as there are 4 levels of 16 cartons in each pallet. Interest that has already been shown by Victorian and South Australian & Northern Territory State Committees, who have indicated that they are interested in a pallet of mixed cartons, from which they will be able to raise somewhere in the vicinity of \$2,500 for each pallet of wine [or 64 dozen] sold.

**This is a great opportunity if you are prepared to give it a go!**

Payment: Full cost price including freight by cheque payable to Miranda Wines to be sent with order. Cheque will be presented by National Office to Winery on despatch.

Product will only be able to be purchased in **dozen lots of each of the wine**, not broken up at the point of dispatch. Whether you wish to on-sell to raise necessary funds for the Club's Service Account and/or the charitable and benevolent activities of your Club, that is a decision that your Club may have to make. The wines will also make a great gift to guest speakers or "friends" of your Club.

**Remember, all orders must be received by October 15 at latest!**

If you have any enquiries please contact the Executive Director at National Office.

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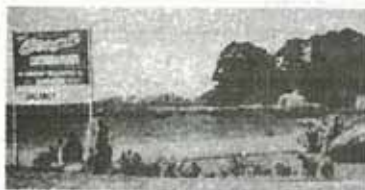
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# Warialda Apex Club [North West, NSW]

## PRIDE IN JUST DOING IT!

A few of the happenings and challenges [with over-regulation in NSW] from the Warialda Apex Club.

1999 has already proven to be a busy time for the Club with ongoing schemes and commitments. Some possible community service ideas may arise from the Club's discussion with its community, and fund raising involvement's. Recycling is a difficult task for their community of some 1500 residents, as the volume of recycling materials

required is just not there. One proven viable opportunity though, is that of glass recycling. The Club has twelve mesh crates, measuring approximately 4 foot square, and four foot high at the local tip for residents to place their glass waste. There is no sorting as such required, ie, coloured and clear glass, all Members have to do is remove any foreign matter such as cardboard and plastic. The Club averages a collection of twelve crates once a

month, which is collected by North Haven sheltered workshop at Inverell, who do a swap for twelve empty crates and pay the Club \$10 per crate - (very easy money!!).

Early this year the Club kicked off its activities with a visit to Warialda by Sue Ellen Lovett, in mid February. Sue Ellen is an almost totally blind equestrian who competes in the Paralympic Games. Sue Ellen and her entourage rode from Brisbane to Sydney on a fund

raising and awareness campaign for the Sydney 2000 Paralympic Games. Her visit to Warialda involved a welcoming BBQ meal with the whole town invited. Over \$600 was raised on the evening which was pleasing.

March saw the 10th anniversary of the national "Clean Up Australia" campaign, of which Warialda Apex Club is their local coordinator. Some 45 locals participated in the day

(Continued on page 45)

(Continued from page 44)

which culminated in a free BBQ provided by Apex. The proceeds from glass sales was utilised for the supply of BBQ and drinks. International relations with a difference was high on the "Clean Up" agenda, with five Japanese visitors participating from Osaka University. The group was visiting Warialda on a farm stay holiday. One of the professors was astounded that a whole country could be organised to participate on such a grand scale but unfortunately, their itinerary did not allow them to stay for the Aussie BBQ lunch. Also in March, Warialda Club assisted the

Club President Kevin Gobbert preparing the Barbie



Gravesend Youth Club to conduct a raft race down the Gwydir River. The request was for Warialda Apex to cook the BBQ for the lunch [something the Club is very good at!] and the evening meal. Not being happy with all work and no play, Club members entered their own raft, "The Gwydir Queen Mk II". The original "Gwydir Queen", which was built in the late seventies, could not be resurrected for this event, so an improved model was built, or so they thought!! Isn't it funny how a brilliant idea during post meeting fellowship whilst sipping on the odd "soft drink" can turn horribly wrong when crunch time arrives. Never the less, it did float!

The raft was constructed from two wool packs, strategically stitched together and two tractor tyres inserted and then inflated, it looked sooooo impressive. The team came a credible 5th place, narrowly behind the Moree Apex Club's "slimlined poly pipe floating fiasco", and in true Apex scouse injury or damage. Knowing that safety is of the utmost importance, plans were in hand to construct new carriages, wheels and



Warialda Members pre launch of the "Gwydir Queen Mk II"

tyres bought, and brakes ordered. It was then the Club's hassles began. Workcover, who enforce the amended regulations, can verbally inform you that you will require a "safe standards manual" to assist with your device. When it comes to obtaining a manual, the "push-button-re-directing-not our-department" telephone tag-match begins. STD phone calls to Sydney, being advised that "Brisbane have the manuals, who in turn advise that Sydney does not know what they are talking about" begin. All to no avail! The difficulty in getting a straight forward answer was beyond all to whom Club members spoke. Finally, an answer is forthcoming as to inspection for registration. The structural engineer, (who was a kind Rotarian and offered his services for

free), was no longer permitted to inspect. The Club now needed a mechanical engineer. After much telephone, E-mail contact and sole searching, the Club finally tracked down a mechanical engineer and, for a mere \$150 travelling expense and \$600 fee, an inspection ticket "would be issued". An annual expense of \$750, for a device that gets used about 4 times a year was totally beyond the Club, so Warialda therefore announces the untimely death of an Apex icon, a device that gave so much pleasure and enjoyment to so many over so long. If any Club or person has had similar problems, OR, if anyone has any suggestions, please contact Warialda Apex Club by mail or: Email- [mox@northnet.com.au](mailto:mox@northnet.com.au)

## Maitland Women reach out to all

When Sharon Dagg was inducted as a member of Maitland Women's Apex Club [NSW] she cried. Pennie Kearney, who manages MaiWel's community programmes, and Sharon's boss, Joanne Thomas, cried too. "Our motto is access, integration and opportunity for all and we are so proud of Sharon because she is achieving it all", Pennie commented.

Sharon, 36, from Rutherford, has an intellectual disability and has been involved with MaiWel since 1981. She began working in MaiWel's processing division and did a short stint on the grounds and gardens crew before being put forward for and winning a part-time clerical position with Hunter Valley Training Company in January 1997. Sharon works 30 hours a week at the company's head office at East Greta Junction, under

the supported wages system. She does computer work, filing, typing, shredding, photocopying, clears the office bins and maintains the kitchen. Her achievements aren't confined to the workplace. Then there's Sharon's Service Club work.

She and Jodie Webster were inducted as members of Maitland Women's Apex Club on May 11 1999 by Senior Active with Maitland Apex Ian Clark, husband of the Women's Club President Kathy Clark. Sharon is the first MaiWel client to be an Apex member. Many Service Clubs wouldn't think to invite a person with intellectual disabilities to join because many don't realise what they can contribute. Sharon said it was a nervous night. But since her induction she already has contributed higher than average service hours

selling raffle tickets and doing the Red Cross doorknock. She loves the social interaction.

After MaiWel representatives talked to members about the contributions people with disabilities can make to the Club, and the contributions Club membership can make to their lives, the Women's Apex Club invited the group to send someone along. It was decided to send Sharon along, so she could have something special that was just for her and to see what went on and what she thought of it.

*"Kathy Clark, the President, picks me up and drops me home. I don't have a car. Helen Maiolo, we call her Giggles, rings me up all the time, asking questions and for a talk. But every time she rings me up I'm having tea or ready for bed. She got*

(Continued on page 46)

(Continued from page 45)

fined for that" Sharon said.

Helena has her own anecdote which demonstrates Sharon's sense of humour:

"We were all laughing and someone said 'God, you're a dag' and Sharon said, 'Yeah, that's my name'."

"I listen to what they are saying and I like being with them". Sharon said of fellow members. "We have lots of fun. We have something called the Sergeant at Arms and they fine people. I Mercury Newspaper got fined a few times. I even got fined for being inducted and Ian Clark reckons

I'm a good talker."

Sharon said she has made some special friends in her Club. And about her latest achievement she said, "I feel proud and confident and relaxed. And I'm having fun".

L to R - Ian Clark, Sharon Dagg, Kathy Clark, Jodie Webster



## .....Make Friends, Have Fun!



Back row - L-R Derrick Mason, Mon Grocott  
Front - L-R Max Corcoran, Bill Wright, John Page, Keith Cahill, Les Newling

They remembered 'Yogi Bear', and the 'Talking Grasshopper' [and his discourse on bananas], service schemes, crazy antics, fun laughter and a few sad times when they gathered at Cootamundra recently.

Members of this aging group were mostly foundation members of the Boorowa Apex Club, chartered in 1962, and they had kept in touch all these years.

They assembled for lunch at the home of Keith and Betty Cahill, to eat and drink. Laugh, joke and, above all, reminisce over service schemes, pranks and dozens of memorable 'happy hours'.

Canon Bill Wright came from Gundagai; John and Ella Page from Canberra; Mon and Jean Grocott; Derrick Mason; Les [Pud]

Newling, wife Heather [alias Twiggy] and friend Margaret Cusack; Max and Mary Corcoran came from Boorowa; and Judy Ryan travelled from Young.

Members of the group, now either grey or bald [referring who to the men of course] recalled those early dinners in the CWA Hall, presided over by the members of the CWA, which some Apexians later referred to irreverently as the 'Cranky Women's Association'.

Their memories of the great times they had together in those much less complicated days before the Internet and the drug culture, were tinged with a little sadness as all recalled the tragic accident in September, 1962, which had robbed the Club of three of its inaugural mem-

bers.

Boorowa Apex survived this early blow to go on to serve the community in many significant ways, including the planting of memorial avenues; the staging of international relations seminars; hosting of Asian students; and the launching of the Dental Health Service.

As they sank a stubbie or two while the women talk about what it is that women usually talk about, these old Apexians [not too much of the old, thank you] discussed the Schemes that succeeded and the ones that didn't, the crazy antics they were involved in, such as the one and only performance of Julius Caesar!

[Old 'Caesar' got his in a big way in this epic tale of love and betrayal, but one member of the cast complained because the silver paint on his sword came off on his new white shirt!].

And another significant occasion was when a school teacher member questioned Pagey's interpretation of the constitution. Pagey's philosophical comment was: "The honeymoon is over!"

All those present at the reunion expressed their support and best wishes to

colleague Keith Cahill who is to enter St Vincent's Hospital later this month to allow the doctors to tinker with his ticker. They are sure he will come through with flying colours, because after all, nothing can stump an Old Boorowa Apexian!

Bill Wright was asked to say grace, and after 50 years provided the perfect Apex invocation. The male members of the group sang the Apex Song, remembering every word, including the second verse [pity they didn't know the first verse of the National Anthem!]

Mon told his usual tale about the fellow shaking the rotary clothes line to see if he could get some apples, and Pud obliged with his well-remembered party trick, a gorilla impression.

Members of the group are planning another reunion next year at Boorowa. Margaret Cusack has offered to provide the venue, and she doesn't know what she's letting herself in for!

Current Apexians talk about the philosophy of Grow . Learn . Make Friends . Have Fun - old Apexians live that philosophy - and always will!

# Is Life membership adequate recognition?

At a time when we see much discussion about "rewarding" those who have made a "significant" contribution to our Apex Clubs and who we may wish to grant Life Membership to at the coming Handover Dinner, the question arises in me, "Is Life Membership of an Apex Club an adequate recognition of the contribution made by those who really qualify to be rewarded that way?"

From the many discussions that I get involved in, the discussion revolves around "minimum standards" for Life Membership and about the adequacy of the "minimum criteria". This has not changed since the recent changes, and the requirement for Clubs, more than ever, to make their case to State Committees. With the changes to the Association By-Law made at the National Convention, some of the enquiries have now been addressed.

Because of the many opportunities that I have to "work" with Club, State and National Executives and 'personalities', I am frequently asked to submit testimonials in support of nominations for Life Members known to me. Under most circumstances, I have little or no problem providing some words of support for an award that I see as being an important recognition of the significant contribution that a large number of our members make. Particularly those that have become well known to me, by their positive actions!

But, I do often wonder, **is Life Membership of an Apex Club, or better, an adequate recognition of the incredible contribution that Apex members make during their time as active members of our Association, and beyond?**

Each year I scan the list of recipients for Australian Honours that are announced on the 26<sup>th</sup> of January [Australia Day] looking for those who I have known through Apex. Rarely, do I see that an Apex Club, or the community served by an Apex Club, recognises the contribution made by those who I have known to have made significant and lasting contributions to the Australian community, whilst a member of Apex. I do, however, compare the "service to the community" [an oft used description of why people are recognised in the civil award list] of people who I have known over many years with that which is listed against the successful recipients of Australian Honours. I wonder why we don't see far more recognition through the Australian Honour system of our own, and past, members contribution?

During his lifetime, our late Founder, Sir John Buchan, shared with me on numerous occasions his personal disappointment that Apex was not "more high profile" in the Australian Civil Awards list and we discussed on a number of occasions what could be done to change this?

Right now, some readers might be saying, "service to our community through Apex is not about self-gratification, or the Awards we may or may not receive! Service through Apex is about those components of our Mission Statement that we have embraced i.e. Growing; Learning; Making Friends; and Having Fun! Any award that we may or may not receive is simply a fringe benefit!" My sentiments exactly!



However, in the April – May, 1999, Australian and Papua New Guinea edition of "The Lion" there appears an article [that looks as if it may have been written by the editor of that publication, Lion Geoff Short] listing the "achievements of Lions and Lioness members." In the 1999 Australian Honours List, the Lion Magazine proudly recognised that 1 Lion was appointed a Member in the General Division of the Order of Australia [AM]; Medals of the Order of Australia in the General Division [OAM] were awarded to 11 Lions and 1 Lioness. Former Lions to receive OAM's totalled 3, and recipients of Australian Honours who had noted that they "had worked with Lions on various projects" numbered 2xAM's and 2xOAM's in 1999.

Reading the profiles of those who received the Awards, makes me reflect on the "community service profile" of many Apexians whose service record is presented to me in support of a request for a letter of recommendation for Apex Life Membership. Also, those who receive Life Membership at presentations that I am able to attend, the recipients really are "Apex Aussie Heroes" and should be treasured and recognised as the resource they are!

After all, isn't this what [a part of] "aggressive citizenship" is all about?

Over to you!

Andrew Phillips  
Executive Director

## HOW TO NOMINATE

Nominations for Awards in the Order of Australia may be made by any member of the public for Australian citizens who have made a significant contribution or provided outstanding service to the Australian community in some way. Nomination forms are available in writing to The Secretary, Order of Australia, Government House, Canberra, ACT 2600 or by calling the 24 hour toll free line **1800 552 275**.

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## Apex Foundation's long term commitment to Autism

Thirty years ago, Apex Clubs around Australia raised more than \$200,000 [if you convert into today's dollar terms approximately \$1m] to "sponsor research into the causes, prevention and treatment of Autistic children". Apexians will be aware [having read the Chapter in "The Golden Years of Apex", entitled "Tramp, Tramp, Tramp, the boys are Marching", that Apexians "walked around Australia" on one of the most imaginative projects undertaken by our organisation and, a project that was superb in its execution. Apexians have been great supporters throughout the Apex Foundation and an Apex Victoria State Scheme a couple of years ago, of programmes designed to help autistic children and families of those children in need. Over the course of this Apex Foundation Trust's history, and before the Apex Foundation existed, Apexians and their Foundation have donated in excess of \$700,000 to support the search for a cure and to assist in the understanding of this disability. Since 1993, the following Grants have been made from the Autism Trust of the Apex Foundation for the following projects:

1993 - Ms. Jacui Roberts [NSW] - \$7,000 - "The development of communication skills in young autistic children. A longitudinal study."

- Professor Margot Prior [VIC] - \$7,000 - "Relationship between diagnosis in Autism Spectrum Disorders and 'theory of mind' abilities. A multi centre study."

1994 - Dr. Sue Bettison [NSW] - \$13,000 - Auditory Integration Training - "The treatment of sound sensitivity in autism."

- Dr. Richard Cockington [SA] - \$5,782 - "An evaluation of the effect high-dose pyridoxine in combination with magnesium on behaviour in infantile Autism"

- Professor Bruce Tonge [VIC] - \$3,000 - "An investigation of sleep characteristics of Autistic children"

1995 - Dr. Sue Bettison [NSW] - \$8,000 - "Follow-up study of the results previously obtained in the Auditory Integration Training re-

search project conducted by the Autism Research Institute.

- Mr. Trevor Clarke [NSW] - \$3,000 - Study of the splinter skills of the more abled person with Autism with a view to developing an appropriate curriculum - a longitudinal study".

1996 - Associate Professor Joachim Hallmayer [WA] - \$15,000 - "A linkage study of familial Autism"

1997 - Dr. Catherine Taylor [WA] - \$8,600 - "Familial Aggregation of Communication Deficits in Autism families"

- Ms. Vicky Duffield [SA] - \$1,674 - "The development of friendships by adolescence and young adults who have high functioning Autism/Asperger Syndrome; a practical programme to facilitate peer friendships"

1998 - Mr. Lindsay Weeks [VIC] - \$4,000 - Travel grant to attend Autreat - a Conference for persons with Autism in the US, August 1998

- Ms. Val Spence [VIC] - \$7,000 - Seeding funding to "develop a register of children who receive a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder in order to determine the current incidence of the disorder in Australia"

Not only has the Apex Foundation provided vital funding necessary for these life-style research programmes, essential for families who are managing a child with Autism, the Apex Foundation has from time to time, assisted the management organisations for autism throughout Australia with funding.

The Autism Trust of the Apex Foundation is the smallest of the "medical Trusts" that are managed by the Apex Foundation.

It's needs are as great as any of the other Trusts managed by the Apex Foundation. Autism is a disability that is found in almost every community throughout Australia, certainly every community that has an Apex Club.

In the coming year, a year which sees the Association committing itself to an Apex Australia Scheme to benefit the Apex

Foundation, perhaps your Club might consider raising monies for this Trust?

After all, someone in your own community, if not amongst your own family or friends, will benefit from the fundraising your Club does and from the vital work that this Trust undertakes in the name of Apex.

Stephen Bennet  
Apex Foundation Director for the  
Autism Trust



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SCEALE BAY SA

## 1999/2000 Apex Australia Scheme - The Apex Foundation

Readers will be aware from information they have received back from their Delegate to the National Convention and elsewhere in this publication, that in the secret ballot undertaken to decide whether we would continue our Apex Australia Scheme to benefit the Apex Foundation or "No Scheme", Clubs have voted to continue the support of the Apex Foundation.

The Apex Foundation represents a lot of what is good about our National Association's contribution to causes that our members have chosen to support over many

years.

You will be aware that for the past 2 years, since Clubs decided by ballot at the Cairns National Convention in 1997, the Apex Foundation has been the Apex Australia Scheme and Clubs have been "obliged" [refer ABL 2.2.1] to participate raising funds for the Trusts managed by your Apex Foundation.

At the conclusion of the last Apex Australia Scheme, and to mark it's continuation, the Directors of the Apex Foundation would like to recognise and thank all those Clubs that have contributed to the Apex Aus-

tralia Scheme over the past 2 years [to 30 June 1999]. The Apex Foundation Board recognises that every Clubs contribution is important and gratefully received. Quite clearly, it is also recognised that Clubs have differing abilities to contribute "significant" donations and is conscious that every Club who contributed made a genuine effort to support their Foundation.

"Significant", for the purpose of this acknowledgment, has been quantified at greater than \$500. The following Clubs have made a significant contribution:

Camperdown  
Canberra Women's  
Drouin  
Emu Bay  
Griffith  
Horsnby

Jindalee  
Launceston  
Lismore  
Low Lifers of Tasmania  
Loxton  
Narrowmine

Sarina  
Tamworth  
Tuggeranong  
Wallsend  
Wongin Hills  
Werribee

The Foundation Board also wishes to acknowledge with gratitude the contribution made by:

Apex NSW State Committee  
Apex Vic ETS  
Barwon  
Berri  
Burlleigh Heads  
Clare & Districts

Coleraine  
Dayboro  
Dubbo Women's  
Gawler Women's  
Geelong Women's  
Golden Grains District - Vic

Gracemere  
Gympie  
Hamilton  
Margaret River  
Meeniyan  
Mount Gravatt

Penshurst  
Ringwood (now Maroondah)  
South Wagga Wagga  
Swan Hill  
Victor Harbor  
Wagin

As you can see, 42 Clubs have [according to the Association's financial records] contributed to the Apex Australia Scheme to support your Foundation over the past 2 years.

The Apex Foundation Board sincerely hopes that Clubs will get behind the Apex Australia Scheme in the coming period, up to the 2000 Convention to be held in Adelaide in October 2000.

In 1999/2000 the Apex Australia Scheme will be run and managed by the Citizenship/Youth Services Committee, and in particular, the Chairman Kath Venters, and by the National Office on behalf of the Association Board.

If your Club contributed to the Apex Australia Scheme in the past 2 years, and its name does not appear amongst those listed above, please contact the National Office so that we may update the Association's records. Some Clubs may have made a "donation" to the Apex Foundation but not indicated that it was for the purpose of the Apex Australia Scheme.

Mark Ballin  
Apex Foundation Director for the Apex Australia Scheme

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## Club "assets" that work .....

The Apex Club of Singleton Inc. (Hunter Valley district, NSW) recently replaced two of its longer serving 'members', its chainsaw and fairy floss machine, thanks to money raised within the community and sales tax exemptions obtained through the Association.

Since its inception in 1955, Singleton Apex has been delivering free firewood to Singleton's elderly and disabled. Names are provided by the local Home Care service and the Shire Council donates the wood. Each Saturday through winter, wood is chopped, split and delivered with time for fellowship afterwards at one of the local establishments.

With winter seemingly longer and colder this year, the need for a new chainsaw was obvious. Thanks to a discount from the local chainsaw retailer (who in turn received some good press) and the tax exemption gained through the Association, the

club was able to purchase the new chainsaw in time for the annual "rush".

Apex is synonymous with fairy floss in Singleton. Now on its third machine, the club spins floss at over a dozen fetes and fairs held within the region throughout the year. Not only providing joy to hundreds of children, the new fairy floss machine has enabled the club to raise in excess of \$1,500 for the charitable and benevolent purposes of the Club, supporting such groups as the community's schools, playgroups and churches in 1998/99.

*Top right:*

*Andrew McIntosh, the new chainsaw and another ute load of wood to deliver*

*Bottom:*

*The Apex Club's fairy floss was a hit with everyone at the Kosovo Friendship Day on 24<sup>th</sup> July. Ian Beck and Michael bright serve 10 year old Jessica Garland.*



## NSW Apex runs a Kids Camp



What a weekend the Kids' Camp at Scotts Head was on Friday 19<sup>th</sup>-Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> March! Scotts Head's Surf Lifesaving Club is a fantastic venue for a camp like this and Armidale Apex Clubs have this Kids' Camp well organised.

Those attending were collected from the Coledale Community Centre on the Friday afternoon and delivered to the Apex Clubhouse, then a bus trip took them on to Scotts Head. After a tea break at Armidale McDonalds and a wee break somewhere else along the road, they arrived at Scotts Head late Friday night and then had to fight the Armidale contingent for some floor space to camp.

The campers went for their first swim at the beach on Saturday morning. After lunch the plan was to have another swim but as the Lifesavers had packed up the flags and gone home, so this was delayed. Separate games of beach cricket and beach footy took place and everybody enjoyed getting plenty of sun [some too

much!]. The late night and early morning took its toll and an "adult" was seen to be having a nap on the beach. This was briefly interrupted by an attempt by unknown offenders to bury him in the sand!

On Saturday night the plan was to have a beach camp fire, however, drizzling rain put an end to that. While about half wanted to watch TV after tea, others were happy to participate in a sing-a-long. A rousing chorus of "Tie me Kangaroo down sport" commenced the singing and followed through with some well-known children's songs. Before getting to the first chorus of "Kumbayah", only 3 campers were left in the audience! The balance of remaining singers were Apexians!

Sunday morning came early [around daylight] and after a cooked breakfast, the rush was on to get to the beach again, but only after a pack-up of everybody's gear to allow time for breakfast to settle. A morning swim was had by all and then an early lunch and clean-up, a last go at the Armidale Jumping Castle and then all piled into the bus for the trip home arriving at the Coledale Community Centre about 7.00pm.

One of the highlights of the weekend was when Tamworth Apex Club

Member Richard Frazer was mistaken for the surf lifesaving patrol captain on duty at the beach on the Sunday morning. An easy mistake – given his physique, tan and general all-round bronzed Aussie appearance! Richard's high point quickly turned to a low point that evening, when he suffered food poisoning – fortunately for everyone, not whilst driving back from Tamworth!

A disappointment for the weekend was that at great expense, a 54 strong touring Chinese Circus act had been arranged and should have arrived on the Saturday morning. Unfortunately, they got the dates mixed up and arrived at the beach on the Saturday three weeks later!

Overall, those who attended, and leaders, had a great time. You will note in the photo outside the bus a mixture of smiles and tired kids, after an action packed weekend. In that same photo, can you pick the Apexian-turned Lifesaving Patrol Captain?



# 1998/99 Apex Victoria - State Convention

## STAWELL - 'GOES FOR GOLD'



The weekend of February 19-21 saw 350 Apexians and their families converge on Stawell from all parts of Victoria for the annual Apex Victorian State Convention.

Apexians and their families arrived in Stawell on Friday to fabulous weather and enjoyed a great social evening at the Stawell Entertainment Centre. They were entertained by local band, "The Tadpoles".

Saturday began with a breakfast at the Entertain-

ment Centre before a busy day was had by all. After breakfast, delegates enjoyed the State finals of the schools public speaking competition, as well as the Apex public speaking and debating competitions. This was followed by a business session. Those not attending the business session boarded a double decker bus for a morning tour of Seppelts Winery at Great Western.

All guests joined for lunch at the Entertainment Centre, after which a number of Apexians competed in the annual Apex Victoria Golf Competition, which was

held at Stawell Golf Club.

Many took advantage of the beautiful weather and again boarded the double decker bus for a pleasant afternoon at Halls Gap in the Grampians National Park.

On Saturday evening Apexians and partners attended the annual Convention Dinner held at the SES Hall in Stawell, with a local caterer serving up a fabulous three-course meal.

The theme for the Convention was "Go for Gold" and the Stawell Apexians had decorated the hall in the colours of the Olympic Rings, a number of Stawell and District Primary School students also helped decorate the hall with artwork prepared along the "Go for Gold" theme.

Many Apexians and partners dressed for the "Go for Gold" theme with some Clubs participating in the annual skits which made for some great entertainment. This was followed by a well known band, "The Echoes", entertaining all guests into the early hours.

After a very late night, Apexians and their families enjoyed a recovery/sports day at Central Park. A lovely brunch was enjoyed by all before guests headed for home.

The many months of planning and work made the 1999 Victorian Convention a great success and the Stawell Apex Club wish to thank all who attended the Convention and trust they had an enjoyable time.



Right - Some of the Past State Committee Members and Partners enjoying themselves at the Victorian State Committee Handover Dinner at Ballarat on Saturday, July 24

Left - Coleraine [Vic] Apex Club's newest Life Member Geoff Lambert [centre] with partner Genevieve Trooth and Immediate Past State President Kevin 'Bart' Simpson. Geoff was surprised to receive the award after being encouraged to dress as a 'Bridesmaid' for a mock wedding during the Club's Handover Dinner on July 30.



## Gilgandra [NSW] sensational in the Western Plains

### MORE "PRIDE" BEING SHARED

The Gilgandra Apex Club of the Western Plains of NSW was awarded District Club of the Year for 1997-98 for a number of reasons. District Governor Ewen Jones praised the innovative service work of the Club, the fantastic results from a membership drive and Gilgandra's participation at District functions such as debating and sporting events. Since the Award last year Gilgandra has not been resting on its laurels.

#### Gilgandra Gift

At the Annual Gilgandra Apex Christmas Carnival the Club was host to over 80 athletes from 4

States for the running of the Gilgandra Gift. Local businesses and organisations in the town donated the prize money of \$6,500. Club President Andrew Playford praised the work of members for the extraordinary entrepreneurial effort. The running of the Christmas Carnival is normally a big deal and last year over 1500 people came along for the festivities. This year the Club had to deal with the normal activities plus the organisation of 30 races over 8 events. The assistance of other Clubs within the community was gratefully received.

Life Member inducts his son into

#### Apex

The membership of Gilgandra has gone ahead in leaps and bounds since the Club decided to be Mixed Gender. Our first female member, Leanne Cook, talked to a couple of her friends into joining then the Principal of the local school joined and now they have 6 female members. Recently, there was a fairly special occasion when Life Member David Sawley inducted his son Ben into the Club. Ben has been hanging around Apex functions since he was a toddler so it was no surprise when he roared up to a member on

(Continued on page 54)

his motor bike earlier in the year and asked if he could join the Club. It was a very proud dad who performed the induction ceremony a couple of months later.

### Service hours on the increase

Some of the many service schemes in which the Club participated this year included Red Cross Door knocking, Salvation Army assistance, Fetes and community fun days, Cancer Fundraising bar staff and the annual Clean Up Australia Day. This year the Gilgandra Apex Club took on the task of cleaning up the tip road. A huge job which was well received by the community.



Some of the members and their families during Clean Up Australia



L to R President Andrew Playford, Julie Sawley, Ben Sawley and David Sawley



Some of the members posing next to the steak van after the big effort put in during the running of the Gilgandra Gift.

## Blacktown Life Member gets a gong

Jim Harrison, Life Member of Blacktown Apex Club in NSW, was awarded an Order of Australia Medal(OAM) in the 1999 Queen's Birthday Honours List.

Jim was a Foundation and Charter member of both the Junee Apex Club and the Blacktown Apex Club. He joined Junee Apex Club on 27 December 1954, his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday, and was on the club board each year from 1955-1960 when he transferred to the Blacktown Apex Club. During this period, he maintained a 100% attendance at all Apex dinner meetings.

After transferring to Blacktown Apex Club, Jim maintained his 100% dinner meeting attendance up till his retirement from Apex on 31 July 1977, an extraordinary 22 ½ years of not missing a Dinner Meeting. Each and every year, Jim was a member of the Club's board of directors and was Club President during the year 1963-64 and Club Secretary in the year 1965-66. Whilst with Blacktown Apex Club, he accrued a total of in excess of 2200 hours community service over 14 years, an average of approximately 160 hours per year. From 1971 through to 1974, whilst Blacktown Apex was establishing and fund raising for a sheltered workshop, he performed over 1000 hours of service.

Life Membership of the Blacktown Apex Club was awarded in 1977. His level of commitment and dedication to voluntary community service within Apex is unlikely to be matched within Blacktown Apex.

However, whilst contributing to his award, Jim's Apex involvement was not the primary reason for being honoured with the OAM. Over many years, Jim has also become Australia's leading blood donor. He has made a long term commitment to the Rhesus Factor program and donates his plasma each and every two weeks. To date, he has made 705 donations, and this number grows fortnightly. This is equivalent to more than two 44 Gallon drums of plasma. His commitment and dedication to donating blood can be proven by him donating wherever

possible on a recent "around Australia" caravanning journey. Due to the nature of his donations, specialised equipment is required to collect his plasma. This equipment is generally only available in State Capital cities. He organised his itinerary so that he was able to make two donations in Perth and also two donations in Adelaide. He is also very proud of the fact that his daughter

received some of his blood products enabling her to have two "trouble free" pregnancies, where complications may have arisen if she did not receive this treatment. As well as the donations, Jim makes himself available to publicise the activities of the Red Cross Blood Bank whenever his assistance is sought. He also involved himself with voluntary fund raising for the Red Cross Society, was a district coordinator for the annual Red Cross Doorknock, coordinating for the entire Blacktown and Mt Druitt areas from his home, and in addition to the Doorknock Appeal, he also coordinated and convened 4 annual Gala Days from 1978-1981.



Jim Harrison making his 700<sup>th</sup> blood donation

Jim, and his wife Barbara, have now retired to the Central Coast of New South Wales, and both are still heavily involved in community interests, especially with the Central Coast Caravaners. Jim introduced his son in law, Andrew, to Blacktown Apex back in 1985, and he is the current President. The Blacktown Club has boasted up to five "second generation" members in the past, and has a proud family based tradition.

Congratulations Jim! Despite being ever humble, this is due recognition of the service support that you have afforded the community. Well done. You are indeed an "Apex Aussie Hero"!

**Editor's Note:** See "article" from Executive Director titled, "Is Life Membership Adequate Recognition?" for further comment on this issue - Congratulations Jim from all at Apex

# Apex in action - Busselton WA

## BUSSELTON APEX AGM

About 50 guests saw Brad Scott inducted as President, and Joe D'Agostino inducted as our latest member at the Busselton Apex AGM on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1999 (onyu guys). Joe's induction was conducted by Club Member Greg Tickle, who is also this year's incoming District 2 D.G. Our membership total is now back up to a respectable 17, with a couple of other of prospexians in the wind.

Outgoing DG Mark Bendotti conducted the changeover of Presidents, and also presented Greg Tickle with his 10 year service award, which would have been one of Marks last duties as DG. Well done Greg.

The Busselton Apex Club would like to congratulate Mark Bendotti on his efforts over the past two years as DG. The club has struck up a great friendship with Mark, Connie and Casey, and we hope this can continue into the future. (hint, hint) Also congratulations to Mark on being voted as WA's DG Of the Year, a well deserved effort.

President Scotty showed up in different style, sporting war wounds from an accident on the farm earlier that week. A large Plough Harrow that Scotty was welding slipped out of the vice, swung up and hit him in the eye. He sure did have a **Ripper** black eye, and by the end of the night he was looking a bit tired. And I'm sure he's still feeling **impressed**.

And it looked like most people behaved themselves on the night (what went wrong girls?) There was one exception with some scoundrel making off with the State Dinner Notice Trophy. One suspects it will take a trip to Capel to get that one back. He would have struggled to fit it in his station wagon though after having to also fit in his Honour Board, Apex Light, Banners, etc which mysteriously disappeared from the Capel AGM. One of the other highlights was the casualness of Incoming D.G. Greg Tickle announcing the impending new arrival to the Tickle Clan. We have just about lost count of the number of babies around the club at the moment. There were four bubs born last year and another three due to arrive this year (correct at time of printing). Good luck to those families involved.

## BUSSELTON WELCOMES MISHU

In Mid June, Greg and Jane Tickle hosted visiting Bangladesh Apexian Mishu Hossain for a week, out at Siesta Park. Greg and the Tickle family showed Mishu some of the beauty of the Busselton - Dunsborough area, as well treating him to a sample of

life on the farm. Busselton Apex Club welcomed Mishu in traditional Apex style by having a BBQ at the Christian household one evening. Mishu gave members and Partners an interesting insight into life in Bangladesh, and then presented our club with some gifts from his club. In return, Busselton President Darryn Beynon presented Mishu with a Club T-shirt and a Club Stubby Holder (and operating instructions), as a reminder of his visit to Busselton.

## NEW D.G. INVOLVED IN AN APEX FIRST??

We here in Busselton believe there may have been some history recently created in Apex WA, and possibly it may even be an Australian First! Either way, I'm sure it doesn't happen very often. Confused? Let me explain.

The District 2 D.G. for 1999/2000 is none other than



Busselton's Greg Tickle. Greg is well known in Apex Western Australia as a highly respected member of Apex, who gives everything his best. But for those of you who don't know, he has had a bit of coaching along the way. You see, Greg's father Phil is a Charter Member and Life member of the Busselton Apex Club. Phil was also the District Governor back in 1963/64, which has us wondering if this is

an Apex First having a Father and Son from the same club who have both been District Governor in the same District.

Phil was Busselton's first Life Member, which he received in 1970. He was around when the club was involved in chartering Margaret River Apex Club, establishing the mini-golf at the beachfront, building playgrounds and being involved in many building demolitions which were big fundraisers and big publicity for the club.

Greg Joined Busselton Apex Club in 1989, and soon established himself as a strong member of the club. He was President in 1995/96, and Committee Chairman for the 1996 State (Holiday) Convention held in Busselton and has held just about every portfolio within the club. Greg recently received his 10 years service badge at the clubs changeover in July. When Greg nominated to be District Governor for this year, a few alarm bells began to ring, as to whether he was creating history.

At this stage we still aren't sure as to whether this is an Apex first, but we are definitely sure that the Busselton Apex Club is a better place because of the Tickle Family.

# WA's "Operation Snowman"

## THE NSW APEX CONNECTION

Cooma Apex Club has been involved with Operation Snowman since its inception 14 years ago, and members agree that there is still no other Apex project each year that gives them that warm fuzzy feeling inside as this one does.

The children are flown into Canberra from Perth and billeted over night by the Canberra Apex Clubs. This co-ordinating role has now been handed on to the Canberra Women's Apex Club. They organise a second bus and driver ["You can't forget Bill"] who stays with the group over the following week. Cooma Club borrow the hospital bus and they drive up to Canberra on the Sunday morning to pick up the children, hospital staff and supporters from McDonalds at Tuggeranong, where the children are given breakfast for free. Fed and watered, both buses then head for Cooma.

In Cooma the group meets at a local ski hire shop "Cooma Ski Rentals" where proprietors Col and Sue Frost have provided ski gear for all **at no charge for the past 14 years**. The group ARE FED again, this time something really healthy [from the Apex BBQ] before heading for the 'Magic Castle' Chalet at Smiggin Holes. By this stage the "group" consists of the two bus loads [you have never seen so much gear in two buses] two four wheel drives, one with trailer, to carry the food supplies, skis, boots, stocks, clothing and toboggans to the Chalet for the week. Cooma Apexians normally bring their own children along making it a great day out, not just a service project.

All the food and supplies are purchased from a list faxed over prior by the Hospital in Perth, local suppliers pre pack the order, then open specially on Sunday morning for the pick up of the goods as a lot need to remain refrigerated or frozen.

Then the convoy set off on the last leg of the journey for the Apex Chalet. The Chalet is another 90 minutes up the road and probably the most exciting part of the trip for all, as it has been a long day by this stage. The National Parks allow all vehicles and the buses in for free each year which is another great saving. Then they are there! The walk up the steep incline to the Chalet is the kids first challenge for the week, but always done with great enthusiasm as they have finally arrived. The real work has begun getting all this gear into the Chalet, the saying "many hands makes light work" is never better demonstrated, everyone puts in and it's all done.

After the traditional briefing of the rules and regulations for the week by the Team Leader it's off to find some snow and grab their first toboggan ride. These great, brave kids may have travelled in the bus for four hours and unpacked all their gear, but

there is still enough energy to play in the white stuff. Every year Perisher has had enough man made snow to get that first ride, build that snow man and realise snow is really cold and wet, if not treated the right way.

Dusk is normally close by now so the Cooma Apex contingent return home for the week. Their children enjoy this day as much as any of them, so again it's really a pleasure be so involved.

The following Saturday three Cooma Club members return to the Chalet to bring the group back to Canberra for the return flight to Perth. Two travel in the ute to pick up all the ski gear while the other person drives the hospital bus. After stopping in Cooma, to thank Col and Sue for the gear and to return it, they make their way back up to Canberra.

Once again, the entourage is met by the Canberra Apex Clubs, who feed them; lead everyone to some of the attractions of Canberra for the afternoon and organise a dinner before being billeted again for the night.

This is when the Cooma Apex Club bid members who have enjoyed this involvement, farewell, and return to Cooma.

Again co-ordinated by the Canberra Women's Apex Club, the Canberra Clubs then organise activities for that night, usually involving fireworks and a bonfire; train rides; and [over the years] a host of other activities have been organised. The following day they fly home to Perth, after one action-packed week.

Up until two years ago maintenance and firewood support for the "Magic Castle" had been co-ordinated by the Woden Valley and Cooma Clubs. The whole ACT has always worked well together on projects like the Chalet Woodchop, Clubs also provide the wood supply each year, some 5-6 tonne, so they are going to add this to the list of District events at the next Southern Tablelands & Monaro District Convention.

The Canberra Women's will probably stay as co-ordinators for the Canberra end while Cooma Club members will do what they do at their end, ensuring the long term success of the project.

Congratulation to the Western Australian Apex clubs for their initiative and ongoing support of such a worthy project. For the past fourteen years you have given so many children from the Princess Margaret Hospital this once in a life time opportunity, one they will never forget, one that all Apexians in Cooma love being able to assist you with.

Keep up the good work.

Brian Coyte  
Publicity Officer - Cooma Apex Club



# Do you have a 'Twin' - Yet?

## Further pursuing that Fourth Ideal .....

Historically, over many years, Apex Clubs have sought out Clubs from like-minded organisations around the world to exchange Dinner Notices/visit and accept visitors from/correspond with/exchange ideas/share complaints ..... This has been partially a further commitment by those involved to fulfilment of the Fourth Ideal, "To promote international understanding and friendship", and also to share and seek ideas with and from people just like us from all over the world.

Potential sources for Twinning are member organisations of the World Council of Service Clubs ["WOCO"] an organisation of which Apex Australia is a pro-active, and Founding, member, in which we have a dynamic presence [Past National President and Wallaroo Life Member Shane Kelly is the current World Council General Secretary; Apex Australia is hosting WOCO 2000 to coincide with the Apex National Convention, Adelaide, October 8-15, 2000] and which comprises member associations in 73 countries throughout the world. A number of Apex Clubs "Twin" with Clubs from Round Table New Zealand and this has proven to be of great benefit to not only the Apex Clubs and Round Tables but to some communities in which the Apex Clubs exist [some Apex Clubs sponsor a student exchange between their communities and the community where their Twin Table exists in New Zealand].

In recent years, you will be aware that Apex Australia has re-established an excellent relationship with the Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs of Canada [in this edition of The Apexian is a story by the Apex Tasmania Overseas Traveller who was hosted by Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs in Canada in 1998. Also, Apex Queensland has sent two of its Overseas Travellers to the Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs in Canada and plans are afoot to send the 1999 Traveller to visit Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs in Canada also.]

Following is a list of Clubs that have already committed to participate in Twinning with Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs in Canada:

Bundaberg Womens	Gull Lake & District Kinettes
Canberra Womens	Gillam Kinettes
Echuca Moama	Edmonton Kinsmen
Gawler Womens	Sackville Kinettes & Vernon Kinettes
Geelong Womens	Edmonton Kinettes
Gladstone	Sudbury Kinsmen
Griffith	Vegreville Kinsmen
Launceston	Fredricton Kinsmen
Mackay	Nipawin Kinsmen
Mullumbimby	Stratford Kinsmen
Sangate	The Pas Kinsmen
Tamar	All Saints Kinsmen
Albury-Wodonga Womens	Drayton Valley Kinettes
Eureka	Georgetown Kinsmen
Edenhope	Oakbank-Springfield Kinsmen
Maitland Womens	Bonnyville Kinettes
Moreton Bay Womens	North Bay Kinettes
Traralgon	Abbotsford Kinsmen
Yankalilla	North Shore Kinsmen
Lismore	Orangeville Kinsmen
Murdoch	Hamilton Kinsmen
Tamworth	Comox Valley Kinsmen
Wendouree	Saskatoon POW City Kinsmen
Young	Grimsby Kinsmen
Devonport	New Glasgow Kinsmen



The above information is correct according to the Association's records. If there are further Clubs who have undertaken Twinning and wish to have that information records, they should contact International Relations Standing Committee, Jeff Zuiderwyk, at his contact information soon to be published in the Directory or by E-mail [atazenkennels@bigpond.com](mailto:atazenkennels@bigpond.com)

According to the most recent information available to the National Office the following Kinsmen & Kinette Clubs are seeking an Apex Club to twin with:

Spruce Grove Kinette	Wainwright Kinette	Tara & District Kinette
Acton Kinette	Shaunavon Kinette	Thompson Kinette
Melita Kinette	Kirkland Lake Kinette	Charlotte Fundy Kin [a mixed gender Club]
Saskatoon Kinette	Sackville Kinsmen	Carbonear Kinsmen
Melfort Kinette	Listowel Kinette	

Great satisfaction and terrific relationships can be built by the Twinning process. You are encouraged to make enquiries of Jeff Zuiderwyk or the Executive Director at National Office.



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ways of treating the disease 3 out of  
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Cancer do not survive.

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an ongoing basis.

**KIDS HELP LINE - 1800 55 1800**

Kids Help Line is a free confidential  
telephone counselling service for all 5  
to 18 year olds in Australia.

Kids Help Line assists children with  
problems at home, school or if they are  
just down and unhappy. No problem is  
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caller wishes.

Kids Help Line receives over 25,000 calls weekly from Kids  
throughout Australia, unfortunately only 1 in 3 calls can  
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*The Children's Cancer Institute of Aust.  
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The concept is to sell small \$2.50 items  
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sided highlighters which have already  
been tested and have proven to be great  
sellers

**Apex Clubs will receive a minimum  
of \$1 per item sold**

The good thing about this proposal is that the  
Club cannot lose money as it operates on a sale or  
return return basis

## A little "Kindness" for disadvantaged City dwellers

To mark the culmination of National Kindness Week, many Apex Clubs in and around Adelaide got together at Whitmore Square on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> August to prepare lunch for Adelaide's disadvantaged people.

Coordinated by Adelaide District DG, Tony Purchase, Fleurieu & Mallee DG, Darren Park and Riverland & Lower North DG, Tracey Joemets, those partaking of the banquet were offered home made soup, sausages and onions, pancakes, jam and cream, tea or coffee and cake.

From the time we arrived and started to set up, there was an air of expectation. While there were only a few "residents" in the park on arrival, interest in our preparation was keen and soon the numbers swelled and the anticipation grew. It was almost like a bush telegraph, there seemed to be no messengers but the news was sure spreading fast. It is estimated that approximately 150 patrons were fed, many of them happy to spend time talking to those serving them. As you can imagine the feedback was positive, but there was a genuine sense of appreciation at what had been offered, and an interest in those providing the feast.

But the benefits were not just restricted to those being fed by this exercise. There was a real feeling of camaraderie amongst the Apexians present. Members and their families representing at least 10 Clubs throughout the state worked side by side to cater for

the hungry hordes, while some funding was provided by other clubs that were unable to attend in person. The atmosphere was warm and friendly as we bantered with each other and our "clientele". Many Apex members expressed how nice it was to serve food without having to worry about taking money. As usually happens at such events, new Apex friendships were established and existing friendships reinforced, and often the question was asked, "Why don't we do this sort of thing more often?"

And indeed **why don't we?**

There were so many positives to come out of the experience. It seems a shame that we need to have an excuse such as National Kindness Week to be motivated into such actions. There are so many in our society that need our assistance and so many things that we as a collective group can do. It seems an oversight not to be more involved and to feel the warmth that comes from knowing that not only has someone been helped by our actions, but we ourselves have also had a good time and reaped some benefits as well. Our greatest joys come from interaction with others and all of us felt the "warm fuzzies" of helping those disadvantaged strangers on Saturday morning.

Congratulations SA, it really was great!!

Bev Freeman  
State Vice President SA/NT



## Letters to the Editor

### THE MAN IN THE MIRROR

When you get what you want in your struggle for self  
And the world makes you king for a day;  
Then go to the mirror and look at yourself,  
And see what that man has to say.

For it isn't a man's father, mother or wife  
Whose judgement upon him must pass;  
The fellow whose verdict counts most in his life,  
Is the man staring back from the glass.

He's the fellow to please: never mind all the rest,  
For he's with you clear up to the end;  
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test  
If the man in the glass is your Friend.

You can fool the whole world down the pathway of years,  
And get pats on the back as you pass;  
But your final reward will be heartache and tears  
If you've cheated the Man in the Glass.

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Boorowa, N.S.W. 2586

The Editor  
The Apexian Magazine  
Apex Australia National Office  
PO Box 669  
NURIOOTPA SA 5355

21 July 1999

Dear Sir

Once upon a time I used to be a young man, but I was brought down in earth a few years ago, when a fellow who is two years my junior was referred to as "middle aged". But that's okay, I'm still young enough to be an Apexian, and Apex is a young men's club, right?

Once upon a time Apex was a young men's club, but two weeks ago, at National Convention, delegates voted to raise the retiring age to 45 years. I guess that means that Apex is now a middle-aged men's club.

When I was 18, I can't imagine I'd have been falling over myself to join a middle-aged men's club. How many 18 year old "Prospectians" would look forward to a long and happy association with a group of grandfathers. In other words, where are our new members going to come from?

Furthermore, little country towns like Boorowa, (the backbone of Apex in times past) need young people more than ever. Little towns need the people that a club like Apex can produce, people with an idea of citizenship, and service, and what a community group can achieve, people with an understanding of meeting procedure and public speaking, and all that Apex can offer. But communities need those people when they are still young enough to have some energy left, when they can do something for their town, unfettered by allegiances to any one group.

Apex is a great training ground for civic leaders, movers, and shakers, but we need those people out in the community before they are old men. And that's what we Apexians will be, make no mistake, living out the last chapter of Apex (the middle-aged men's club) with no-one to take our place.

Yours In Apex

*W.L. Mason*

W.L. Mason, Boorowa.

# Letters to the Editor continued

Dear Editor

re: 45 Age Limit

The age limit change from 40 to 45 has attracted considerable discussion over recent years, and now that it has been resolved it is important that rational discussion continues. On behalf of Wimmera District (Vic) I spoke against, and voted against this motion at the Surfers National Convention on the basis of potential problems with the 18-45 age range.

The convention is over, and the issue has been decided, and I accept the informed decision of our Association. Now we must make it work.

A major issue that I believe needs to be worked on to ensure the success of the 18-45 age range is that we provide due consideration to the needs of our younger members. If we ignore them and allow Apex to become a predominantly 30-45 age range Association then we will have failed.

To assist the successful implementation of the 18-45 age range I believe that older members need to give younger members an opportunity to be heard and influence the direction of their Clubs and the Association.

I have seen in my own Club several Apexians who in their latter years have wisely taken a lesser role to encourage newer members to have their say, and even to re-try projects that the club had tried (maybe unsuccessfully) years before. The delicate balance that older members must strive for is giving younger members the chance to try something, even if they make a few mistakes, while at the same time providing an occasional nudge to keep the Club on track.

The same principle applies at State and National levels. Perhaps our youth committees could develop objectives for younger members of our association, in

addition to their existing role aiding senior Apexians to use their wisdom to make younger members feel welcome, and to give them more positions on State or National boards might be reserved for younger members.

The age limit has changed, and it is now the responsibility of the

John Martin  
Horsham Apex Club

The Editor  
Apexian Magazine

Dear Andrew

A number of issues back, an article by Apex Foundation Secretary Lynnette Salapatras appeared in the Apexian Magazine detailing the financial assistance provided to a Narromine family (Terry and Dot, Jacob and Holly Pearson) by the Apex Foundation.

For those not familiar with the case Jacob and Holly both suffer from a facial deformity requiring numerous Cranio-Facial Surgeries and check-ups in Sydney during their childhood and the Foundation have provided a sponsorship to assist with the financial burden this creates on Terry and Dot.

As a result of the publicising of this sponsorship, I have received a number of enquiries from Apex Clubs in NSW requesting details of how we went about getting this family the money. Coincidentally, I had long felt that the Apex Foundation "spiel" at Conventions/ ETS etc. always concentrated on raising money for the Foundation, and seldom referred to how our clubs and communities can get some back (although this is changing).

Without trying to be too long winded, this is what we did:-

1. Approach from family friend by letter
2. Invited family to attend Dinner Meeting and outline their plight
3. Recognised the "problem" as being one for which the Apex Foundation held funds in trust (Cranio-Facial Surgery) and ascertained the amount of the trust fund
4. Contacted the Cranio-Facial Trust Director (at the time Lynnette Salapatras) to discuss the situation and see where we stood
5. The Pearsons attend a club Dinner Meeting and tell us their story
6. Assess the Pearsons need, and decide to donate \$500 to assist with the repair of their cars gearbox
7. Write up my notes taken on the night and fax to Lynette for inclusion in the Foundation Board Meeting agenda.
8. Contacted (then) Foundation Secretary Tony Peters to check out the Trust Deeds and alert him to the application.
9. Prepare a more detailed submission with full financial details and photos and post to Lynette for her to present at the Foundation Board Meeting
10. Apex Foundation Board approves a ten-year sponsorship amounting to \$20,000
11. Prepared and forwarded a budget for how the money will be spent

Fairly easy, isn't it. There are a number of important points to remember:-

- Be professional: the application should be like an application for a government grant. Don't just photocopy the letter sent to you - write it up properly
- Be honest: You aren't negotiating your next wage rise - only ask for what you need. Outline the plight, but don't lie to make it sound better or deliberately leave anything out such as other community assistance the family is receiving etc. If you want to make it a guilt trip do so (we did) but be factual.
- Act in good faith: we felt it was important that we did what we would have done as a club (donate the \$500) regardless, whether the Apex Foundation assisted or not
- How will this affect the family within the community: will your intentions do more harm than good. If receipt of a Foundations sponsorship will likely impact on the assistance already being provided within the community, assess this impact before proceeding

The sponsorship we gained is two years old this month (July). An Apex club somewhere receives an "I need money" letter every day. It is about time we found the next "Jacob and Holly". For the sake of the kids - keep your eyes open.

Yours in Apex



Brian Tobin  
Narromine NSW

## Letters to the Editor continued

**From:** Jim Dever <DeverJ@optimist.org>  
**To:** 'APEX Australia' <admin@apex.org.au>  
**Date:** Tuesday, 8 June 1999 1:41  
**Subject:** RE: SCLC 1998 and 1999

Andrew Phillips  
Greetings from St. Louis, MO, Andrew. I just finished reading your magazine, and wanted you to know how impressed I was with the numerous outstanding projects you guys are doing in Australia. I read with interest your article about the Random Acts of Kindness day. Many of our clubs in Optimist International have participated, including my own, and it is amazing the amount of good will that is generated by this most simple project. Take care, and best to all of you, and keep up the GREAT job you are doing.  
JIM DEVER  
Associate Executive Director  
Optimist International

*[Ed's note: - now National Kindness Week, August 1-8, 1999]*

**Editor's note:** "Optimist International" - a member organisation of the world Service Clubs Leaders Conference ["SCLC"]. Optimist is a civic service membership organisation of 4,200 Clubs in 14 countries with approximately 150,000 members and operates with a budget of some US\$6.5m. Service projects are directed primarily to youth programs. Jim Dever is Associate E.D.; a board member for YMCA; chairman of Civil Service Board in Panama City, Florida; a distinguished Governor for Optimist International; and an all round good guy with whom I became friendly at SCLC in 1997]

Dear Editor

I am writing to compliment the National Board and Conference Images for the way they conducted the 1999 National Convention at Jupiter's Casino on the Gold Coast. I realise that it was a rush effort to get things done, the way things turned out but all things considered it was a huge success. The Venue for the business session was first class and I had no difficulty in hearing the speakers. The audio visual displays were also first class as were the guest speakers, with inspirational words from KJ McCaig, Past National President of Kinsmen Clubs in Canada [yes, another "ordinary person who has achieved extraordinary things" through his roles in a community service Club organisation - just like Apex!] and the professional speaker [again arranged by our Executive Director] Keith Abraham, are both still fresh in my mind. The outdoor luncheons were excellent as it showed off winter in Queensland. (See the TV ads **don't lie**). National Board even threw a gusty, wet farewell to make the Southerners feel better about heading home. I must also congratulate the Past Board for initiating the

Awards Luncheon. This was one of the highlights for me and I was proud to receive a walking stick, after 22 years of service. It brings a sense of importance to the presentation of our awards that has been lacking for many years. I hope that this is a continuing trend.

The only criticism I have was that there was not a farewell Banner Brunch. This is one event that we should reinstitute as it is a great way to say goodbye and an excellent opportunity to swap club banners. I do understand that this year was probably the exception to the rule due to the whole event not being organised by a club. I look forward to a banner function happening in Adelaide in 2000, and the chance to exchange banners with those like-minded persons attending WOCO 2000 from all over the world.

Congratulations to the Team at National Office and Conference Images for a job well done in 1999.

Terry Russell  
Active Life Member [over 40!]  
Sandgate Apex Club  
Queensland

Dear Apexians,

I am a 24 year old member of the Wendouree [Vic] Apex Club. I joined the Association when I was 22 and went to my first meeting thinking that APEX is probably like AMWAY.

Having participated in the spirited debate at National Convention in relation to raising the Age limit, I feel there are some issues that are perhaps not fully understood by the greater Apex community.

As a 22 year old, I had no problem associating with people aged 35, 40 or 45, after all I work with them, deal with them at work and play sport with them. Admittedly, most of my friends outside Apex are my age or younger, but this only makes the life I have inside Apex so much more important. I have lived in 3 different rural areas and been a prospexian for 7 Clubs. I have been welcomed with open arms and treated as an equal at all of these Clubs.

I did not understand the significance of this until the National Convention. Someone said that "20 YEAR OLDS DO NOT ASSOCIATE WITH 45 YEAR OLDS" therefore it cannot work?. What I hadn't recognised is that the age difference is the very reason why APEX does work! We break down the barriers, everyone is equal and before we know it there is a link between two people a "bond" if you like, which **transcends the age barrier**. I had no idea that some of my best Apex friends were so old until I found out they had to retire. And when I did realise it was no surprise that I was not at all concerned about their age.

I see the biggest strength of the APEX organisation as the ability to mentor young people at all stages of their life. I write this knowing that I have been given advice and leadership by fellow Apexians just as Apexians in their late 30s have been advised by the Senior Actives and Life Members of our Clubs. We all have

*(Continued on page 62)*

## Letters to the Editor continued

(Continued from page 61)

mentors and the Apex Association is one of the best mentor programs I have ever seen.

Don't get me wrong, we need to be focussed to an age group, and the age limit should not be increased wantonly. The WOCO age limit is 45 which is why Rotary and Lions are not part of WOCO. If the other service organisations we associate with throughout the world believe 45 is a good cut off, then I believe we should either lobby to have the world wide age limit lowered or have the same requirement.

We must understand that a low age limit will not keep APEX members young. The average age in each of our APEX Clubs is for us to control. If you want young members in your Club, then invite more young people, give them the same acceptance that I have found and open up to the new ideas they bring to the organisation. There are young people who do not want to meet with 45 year olds, possibly the same people who do not want to help their community. But don't forget about the many young people like myself who do want to meet with others aged 40-45. If the Apex organisation properly mentors the 20 year old people in our community by simply being friends and having fun, we will be on our way to building some much better communities.

There is a particular need for a service organisation in each community that focuses on younger people. But as I have found through Apex we're still fairly young at 40, you might be over the hill, but you're not really old until you're 50!

Knowles Tivendale  
DG Central Highlands District  
Wendouree Apex Club

*[Editors Note - the views of Knowles' about "you're not really old until you're 50" are not shared by the Editorial staff of "The Apexian". An issue I will address with him when next we meet!]*

22nd July, 1999

Dear Andrew,

Many changes have occurred since I last wrote to you concerning my placement overseas. At that time I was scheduled to go to the Pacific Island nation of Kiribati early in June, but due to a multitude of insurmountable problems - not the least being that due to the rise in ocean level due to global warming, two of their islands were covered by the ocean, and the government was forced to permanently abandon them, and evacuate the inhabitants to other islands. As a result, Australian Volunteers International - the body organising my placement commenced negotiations with other developing countries, and now have finalised my placement on the island of Pohnpei which is part of the federal States of Micronesia.

Basically, the only difference is the location, because FSM - like Kiribati - is a small Pacific island developing nation. It comprises four island states and operates not unlike the United States - with each of the states having their government under the umbrella of a Federal government.

It is situated just above the equator, directly north of New Guinea, midway between the Philippines and Hawaii. The island of Pohnpei is volcanic, covered in the main by dense rain forest, and most of the shoreline is covered with mangrove swamps. The interior receives some 400 inches of rain per annum and the shoreline some 200 inches. As such it is hot and for the most part of the year, extremely humid. It is said the Pohnpei never dies - it merely steams. As such, all items either rust or mildew extremely quickly.

FSM was a United Nations Trust territory administered by the US until 1986, when the four groups of islands gained independence, and formed the one federated nation. English is the official language of government, but each of the states also has their own language. The total population is some 120,000 people, and in common with other Pacific nations, FSM has a relatively low life expectancy, and high

infant mortality rate. As such the average age of the population is quite low. Paid employment is very low, with many of the people relying on subsistence farming and fishing to provide basic food. Many of the inhabitants still maintain a traditional way of life. Apart from fishing, and a fledging logging industry, there are no natural resources, and as such, the government relies very heavily on overseas aid for income. Currently the main source is the US with which FSM entered into a "Compact of Free Association" in 1986, and this provides a guaranteed aid payment until 2001. It is expected that the aid amount will be greatly reduced at that time, and as such FSM is currently restructuring government departments to ensure maximum efficiency when the compact expires.

My role is to oversee the restructuring of the pharmaceutical supply to the Nation, and to implement effective procurement, inventory control and distribution to the various decentralised community based health centres, together with the main hospital, etc.

Speaking with the Director of Health for FSM, it is obvious that one of the main problems is still drug shortages, and absence of the specialised drugs which are needed from time to time. In short, the problems are identical with those suffered by Kiribati, and hopefully with the Australian contacts, some of these problems can be overcome in the ensuing twelve months.

That basically is the situation Andrew - like before, I will be in a better position to fully inform you of the need after my arrival on Pohnpei. I am currently scheduled to depart on August 15th, and will contact you further after my arrival and assessment of the situation.

With kind regards,  
Yours in Apex  
JOHN RUSSELL

# Apex Insurance Brokers talk about Worker's Comp

## Continuing articles by our Brokers on Apex Insurance .....

At AEI we appreciate how important Workers' Compensation is to an organisation, and how costly it can be if it is not handled in the correct manner. As a result we have for many years maintained a separate Workers' Compensation Division, which specialise in this class of insurance.

The result is a highly skilled team that is able to not only deal with any aspect of a client's existing Workers' Compensation programme but also be proactive in such areas as Risk Management to ensure their interests are fully protected.

Australia is becoming a more litigious country and in the past few years we have seen an increase in insurance claims and court cases in the areas of Public Liability, Unfair Dismissal, Sexual Harassment and, of course, Workers' Compensation.

The single biggest concerns for Apex Clubs and similar organisations is how to handle the issue of contractors, voluntary workers and individuals carrying out work for the Club where they are not paid by way of a wage but may receive other payment (ie board or lodgings).

Except for voluntary workers a Club should in all cases try to ensure that anyone who carries out work for them has current Workers' Compensation and Public Liability policies, **at the very least**. Even though legislation differs from State to State, the single most common problem area is that of **contractors** and who should cover them. We are seeing more and more claims being submitted by contractors who although directly not employed by a company submit claims on the basis that they carry out most of their work or derive most of their income from this employer. The other area that appears to be on the increase is claims being submitted for hearing loss (and similar like injuries ie degenerative and that progressively get worse over time) where contractors submit claims on all of the companies that they have worked for claiming a proportion on each.

This is just a snapshot of some of the cases we are seeing but is not applicable in this exact circumstance for all States or Territories.

**A summary of covers currently in place for Apex Clubs follows:**

### QLD

Workcover QLD will not allow a single policy to cover all Apex Clubs in QLD as has been previously the case.

**Clubs must effect their own individual Workers' Compensation policies if they employ anyone under the definition of the Act.** A policy may be effected at the time employment begins or alterna-

tively have a minimum premium policy which would automatically cover anyone that may be employed during the course of the policy year.

If the latter option were taken up then the club would need to declare the wages paid at the end of the policy year and the appropriate premium would be calculated.

### VICTORIA

The same circumstances as for QLD individual policies to be effect by each club where they employ.

You are not obliged to register as an employer unless remuneration paid reaches \$7,500 or more.

### NSW

Same circumstances, as QLD and Victoria .A minimum premium policy is \$110.

### SOUTH AUSTRALIA

There are currently two policies in place in respect to South Australia. One in the name of The Association of Apex Clubs of Australia Incorporated covers the employees of Apex National Office.

The second policy is in the name of Apex Clubs in South Australia. This policy provides cover for the individual clubs should they employ under the definition of the Act. If a club does employ someone they should contact AEI and provide details. Workcover will then calculate the appropriate premium.

### NORTHERN TERRITORY, TASMANIA, WESTERN AUSTRALIA, ACT

There are policies in place in respect to the above States and Territories. If Clubs employ anyone during the year details must be declared to AEI and the appropriate premium will be calculated.

This is **just a summary of policies** in place for Apex Clubs around Australia. It does not provide details of the many individual circumstances that may arise when a Club is considering employing someone. We ask that if you require more information on any particular legislation or have any questions regarding any aspect of Workers' Compensation, you contact **Edward Palminha**, National Workers' Compensation Manager, AEI [Brokers].





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