



# INFORMATION BOOKLET

FOR NEW APEXIANS

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Apex Australia  
Building Better Communities  
[Apex.org.au](http://Apex.org.au)

# Introduction

Congratulations  
on becoming  
an **Apexian**

You have now joined a group of young, vibrant people committed to making their local communities a better place to live.

Many people see induction into Apex as a turning point in their life. By joining Apex, you have shown a commitment to your community, your friends and to yourself. That's why this page starts with "Congratulations"!

Our slogan is to "Grow, Learn, Make Friends, While Having Fun". This booklet will show you how Apex can help you achieve this, as well a little bit of information about Apex and how to become a fully contributing member of your Apex Club.

Please take the time to read this booklet and to look through the extra information on our website. If you have questions, please feel free to discuss them with your fellow Club members.

Apex is a non-religious and nonpolitical volunteering organisation which is focused on serving and working with young Australians. Apex is the only service association founded in Australia. Over many decades we have achieved many great things, and we hope you can be a part of the great achievements still to come.



# What is Apex?



Our Apex organisation is made up of a large and diverse group of volunteers, from all States and Territories, urban and rural.

At the heart of Apex is our local clubs and their members - which now includes you! As long as the Apex Constitution and Rules are followed, clubs are entirely free to decide what they do and how they help their local community.

Our first club was formed in Geelong in 1931. Since then, clubs just like yours have opened throughout the country and across Asia and the Pacific.

All clubs are administered by a club board, with a President, Secretary, Treasurer and various Portfolio Directors, again chosen to reflect the needs of your clubs. Separate committees may also be appointed to administer specific events or functions you undertake.

Clubs get together at the regional level, represented by a Regional Communicator. Their job is to help clubs when needed, collect reports from the clubs and share information between Apex Australia, your club and your neighbouring clubs.

At a National Level, Apex is led by a board, directly elected by all clubs. At present it consists of a National President and 6 board members. You need to be a member for 5 years before standing for the National Board. Once that time has elapsed you can stand for the National Board and make your own stamp on our country.



# How can Apex help me?

Everyone joins Apex for their own personal reasons. You have joined because you have already seen something in it for you - and only YOU really know the answer to that.

You may have joined because you saw a way to meet new friends, or an opportunity to put something back into your community, or you may have seen a group of people having fun and thought you could too!

However, as time goes on, and with more time in Apex, you will experience many other reasons to enjoy Apex.

How many of the following benefits listed do you think you would like to achieve? With the right participation in Apex activities, you can achieve all of these benefits and skills and much more!

Benefits of joining an Apex Club:

Great Friends	Sense of Achievement	Time Management
Leadership Skills	Interesting Guest	Family Fun
Chairmanship	Speakers	Personal Discipline
Professional Contacts	Debating	Expanded Knowledge
Management Skills	Fun	How To Use Media
How to get things done	Social Contacts	Overseas Friends
Administration Skills	Communication Skills	Contacts & Friends
Public Speaking	How To Deal with the Media	Throughout Australia
Broad View of Community Issues	Overseas Visitors	Variety



# What's Expected of me?

Your family and job will always come first, we ask that you give whatever time and effort you have spare to be a part of your Club, and Apex as a whole. All we ask is:

## • ATTENDANCE

All members are asked to regularly attend meetings of their Club. If you are unable to attend your own Club meeting, either as a once off or for the foreseeable future, work with your President and club to see what alternatives are possible.

## • PARTICIPATION

Apex is a Service Club, and therefore carries out service work in the community. Without providing service to our communities, we are no longer aligned with community needs. Your club will make you aware of what your Club will need to achieve their goals.

We also ask that you actively seek and invite new members to join Apex. The future of your club depends on inviting like-minded people to join with you, with more people in your local club you really can achieve more.

There are also functions like social occasions, conventions, and other varied activities. Through these activities we learn more about ourselves, others, and gain skills that we can use at work, at home and for the rest of our lives.

**"Like anything, you only get out of Apex what you put into it."**

## • FEES

Apex is a volunteer Association and does not receive any direct funding from Government. It costs money to do all the things that Apex does, not just the Service activities at Club level, but also administration and insurance costs to ensure that Apex is a well organised, professionally run (in image), and pro- active organisation in our communities.

To pay for these costs we need to raise the money ourselves. Therefore, Clubs are asked to contribute to the running of the Association. These costs are proposed by the National Board each year and approved by your clubs. Once these costs are determined, each Club will decide how much to charge, if anything, their individual members.



Yes, it can cost money to be a part of Apex, but it is usually less than being part of any sporting or social group - and you are doing something positive for yourself, your community and your country.

• **SUMMARY**

Apex does not ask for much, except participation, some of your spare time, and for you to enjoy yourself.

HAVE FUN AND TAKE THE TIME TO SHARE YOUR APEX CLUB WITH  
SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR COMMUNITY



# The Ideals of the Association of Apex Clubs:

- To make the ideal of service the basis of all enterprise
- To develop by example a more intelligent and aggressive citizenship
- To provide a means of forming enduring friendships, rendering altruistic service and building better communities
- To promote international understanding and friendship

## The Invocation:

*"For good food, for good fellowship and the privilege to serve we give thanks."*

## And the Mission for our Clubs and Members:

*To grow, learn, make friends, all while having fun".*

- **Growing:** Challenging you to develop into a better citizen.
- **Learning:** Providing opportunities to develop your personal skills and qualities.
- **Making Friends:** Fostering long and enduring friendships while working to the benefit of others. Building a wide circle of contacts through shared experiences.
- **Having Fun:** Enjoying the company of fellow Apexians when working together.
- **Helping Others:** The ultimate aim of Apex is to improve local communities



## Your Badge

The badge was designed by Co-Founder Ewen Laird in 1931.

The badge is an equilateral triangle with the base representing CITIZENSHIP, one side representing SERVICE and the other representing FELLOWSHIP.

The rays of the rising sun symbolise the rising generation of youth.

Wear it with pride.



# And What Does All That Mean?

## **To make the ideal of service the basis of all enterprise**

- To be of service to the community and seek support of community groups to assist Apex in its service activities.
- To be of service to disadvantaged groups and individuals.
- From time to time, to be involved as groups of clubs in National Projects.

## **To develop by example, a more intelligent and aggressive citizenship**

- To care, and be seen to care, for all individuals in society.
- To be active leaders in the community.
- To establish meaningful relations with other organisations so that Apex is aware of the needs of the community.
- To encourage pride in Australia and our heritage.

## **Youth**

- To work to ensure the maximum possible opportunity for young Australians to fully develop their potential.
- To actively support youth organisations

## **To provide a means of forming enduring friendships, rendering altruistic service, and building better communities.**

- To provide opportunities, wherever possible, for family involvement generally.
- To provide through service work, a meaningful process of personal involvement and a sense of achievement for all Apex members.

## **Membership**

- To make Apex Membership available and attractive to young people in Australia.
- To provide programs offering a range of experiences likely to encourage a greater commitment of Apexians to their membership of Apex.

## **To promote international understanding and friendship.**

- To seek and provide opportunities for overseas service, international friendship, and overseas travel.
- To encourage Australians to seek a better appreciation of the cultural diversity of Australia.







Clockwise from left

Our Mascot, "Dunk" giving a helping hand.

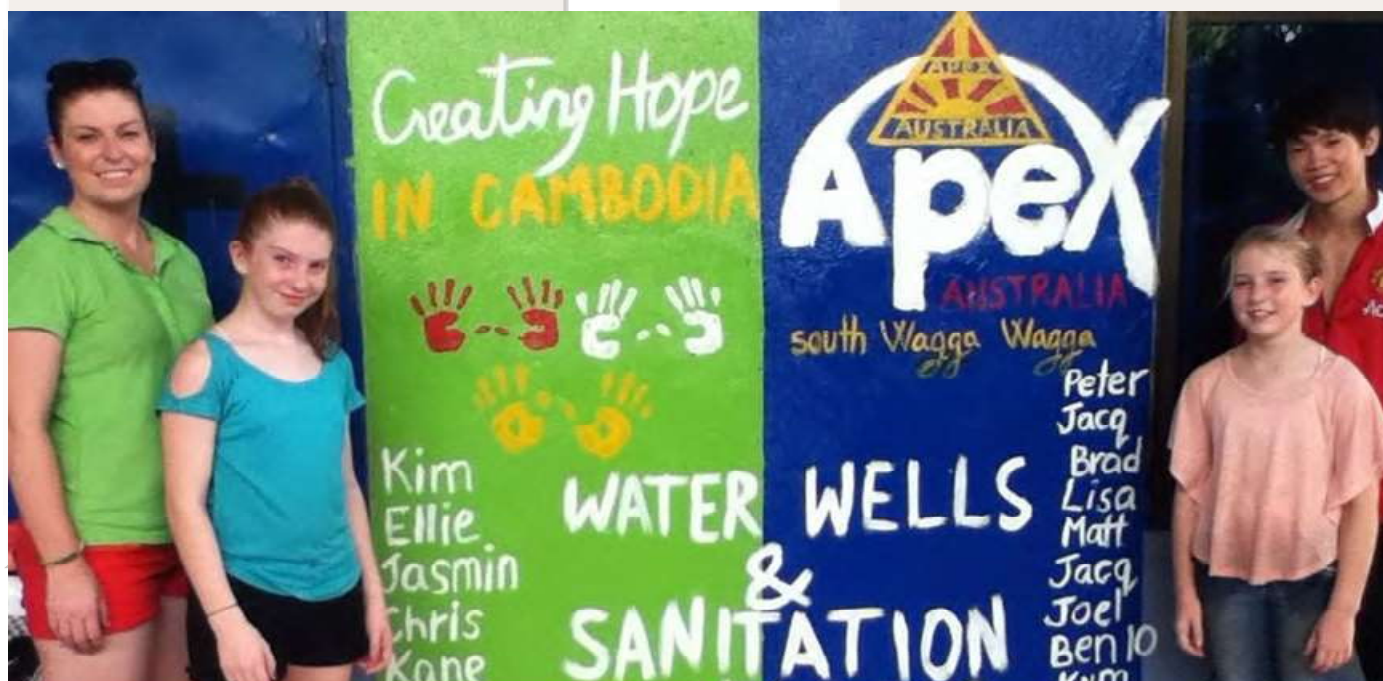
Working at the Apex Chalet, Snowy Mountains, NSW.

Racing hard and raising money for kids with cancer, Outback South Australia



The latest of our many overseas Work Parties.

Helping victims of natural disasters in Tasmania.







Clockwise from left.

Winner of the Designer of the Year at the Apex Teenage Fashion Awards, Minni Karamfiles from WA.

Winner of the Butterfly Award for positive body image, Megan Wheelwright.

Making a difference.



Lined up ready to race in the Apex Outback Postie Ride.

Playing Santa for Foster Kids in Qld.



# Why Apex?

From the beginning, the driving force of Apex has been the desire to serve the community. From its inception, our first club in Geelong, Victoria recognised **SERVICE** as the real reason for its existence.

The tradition of service to the community has been continued by all Clubs. A variety of tasks and schemes have been, and still are, taken on by individual Clubs to give assistance to local bodies and individuals who are in need. Thousands of hours are given by Club members every year.

A few of the events that happen every year around Australia include:

- Hosting the annual Christmas Street Parade in Launceston, Tasmania, with dozens of homemade floats, street performers and entertainment.
- Staging the biggest party in the Pilbara, Western Australia, with Karratha Apex's Garden Party. Fancy Dress is required, and you will have to queue for hours to buy your tickets!
- Holding the Apex Australia Teenage Fashion Awards throughout Australia, with the final in Melbourne. which gives teenagers around our country the opportunity to make their dreams come true and 'unleash their potential in the fashion industry.
- Giving underprivileged and seriously sick kids a holiday in the snow at our own Apex Chalet, Jindabyne, NSW.
- Putting on the ultimate camping and music festival with the Apex Gympie Music Muster in Gympie, Queensland.
- Racing the Apex Outback Postie Bike Ride through Outback South Australia. You can ride your Postie Bike almost 1,000 km across the toughest 'roads' in Australia and raise money for respite care for kids with cancer.
- Running the bar at the Ewan Races, the biggest and best country race meeting you've never been to, with Apex Townsville in Queensland.
- Managing the world-famous Camel Cup in Alice Springs, Northern Territory.

There will always be new and important projects and schemes that Apex will become involved with - maybe one of your ideas will lead to Apex continuing to improve the lives and lifestyles of our communities. We will always encourage you to become a very important part of your Apex club and put forward your ideas to benefit your community.



# Apex Roles

Apex is involved in all sorts of activities, and we aim to allocate a 'job' or portfolio' to each task required at your club level.

Each portfolio can be very different from the others, A brief explanation of the main portfolios may help you to understand what work is done in each. Apex provides a comprehensive training program for the majority of these portfolios, available online.

## **PRESIDENT**

The President is responsible for facilitating the club direction and ensuring that the club is functioning well - in essence - the manager of the Club. The President usually represents the Club at local civic functions and for any local media information. They also act as chairman at important Club meetings for example Handover, and other special occasions.

## **SECRETARY**

The Secretary is responsible for all correspondence, incoming and out-going, and for taking minutes at all meetings. This includes club feedback to the National level and the required legal return for your club's incorporation.

## **TREASURER**

The Treasurer is responsible for all monies, in and out of the Club, including any projects you run. The Treasurer is also responsible for ensuring payments are made on time, having books audited each year and making regular reports on current financial situation to the club membership.

## **SERVICE**

The Club Service Director is responsible for investigating requests for, or finding, service work that needs to be actioned in the local community. They are responsible for coordinating manpower, equipment, and dates to carry out the work. A key role is to keep a record of all service hours completed by the Club members and supporters for the purpose of information for the Annual Report, and to promote the great work you do.

Every club has developed their own range of roles, which may differ from the above, Work with your President to see exactly how you best lend a hand.



# Who can help?

Your first place to turn to will be within **your own club**. Most clubs have decades of experience with the members you will meet with every month. Then there are usually experienced members at surrounding clubs who will be happy to help.

Find out who your **Regional Communicator** is - their job is to act on behalf of all the clubs within your region, again to support and to share information.

Then there is the **public page for Apex Australia at Facebook**. This page is open to the public and is the best place to share good news stories about your achievements.

Make sure you **sign up for the newsletter at apex.org.au**. Apex puts out a regular newsletter for our members and this a great source of information about what clubs are doing around the country.

For 2017/18 we have 7 members of the **National Executive**, all of whom are experienced Apexians - if they don't know the answer to your question, they should know someone who can.

You can email the current **President, via president@apex.org.au**, they would love to hear from you. You can contact any of the directors, via the office at admin@apex.org.au

You can also contact our **National Office**. Our administrative staff in Brisbane can quickly answer your membership, contact and insurance questions. They can be contacted at admin@apex.org.au or on phone during business hours, 07 3245 3730.

Every year we hold a **National Convention and AGM**, at the beginning of October each year. There is also valuable face to face training for Apexians. It's a great weekend away - highly recommended! Look out for more information on our website and Facebook page as the time gets closer.





# Our History

Apex was founded by three young men - Langham Proud, Ewen Laird and John Buchan - in Geelong, Victoria after a meeting of young men on the 19th of November, 1930, at which it was decided to form a 'Young Business Men's Club'.

On the 10th of March 1931 a constitution was approved and the name "APEX", meaning the height of ambition, was officially adopted. Committees, like those now operating through Club Boards, were established and the retiring age of members was set at 35.

In May 1931, expansion of Apex activities commenced with the formation of the Ballarat Club. The early development and expansion of Apex owed much to the assistance of Rotary with whom Apex has always had a close relationship.

At the first Apex Convention on 26th July 1931, representatives from Geelong and Ballarat Clubs adopted Ewen Laird's design of an Apex Badge, similar to the present badge.

By October, a Convention was held in Geelong where the Association of Apex Clubs was established, under the guidance of a Board of Control comprising of one representative from each Club. Constitutions and By-Laws for each individual Club were also adopted.

In June 1933 the official journal of the Association - The Apexian - was first published, with Newman O'Dea as its first Editor. Expansion continued throughout Australia, and we are now helping our communities throughout every state in Australia. Apex has also extended overseas to other countries, including Singapore, Malaysia, India, Bangladesh, Fiji, The Philippines and Indonesia.

Apex continues to strive for its Ideals and build a better Australia for all Australians. From the beginning, the driving force of Apex has been the desire to serve the community. From its inception, Apex has recognised Service as our real reason for existence. The first National Scheme was in 1935, just 4 years after the first club was formed, to gain support for the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The 1957 National Scheme resulted in the establishment of the first Guide Dogs for the Blind Training Centre in Australia, and Apex at all levels continues to support the State's Royal Guide Dogs for the Blind Associations. Past Apexians still serve on State and National Executive/Boards of Guide Dogs. 1969 Apexians walked around Australia to raise funds to start the Research Foundation into Autism, which is still funded by the Apex Foundation.



1979 'Magic Castle', Smiggin Holes, officially opened by the Prime Minister. Funded and constructed by Apexians for use by/for underprivileged children. This Chalet continues under the Management of a Committee of the Apex Foundation.

From 1992/93 Apexians undertook a 5-year commitment to focus on the protection of children at risk. This commitment was extended through ongoing involvement as a benefactor to Kids Helpline, benefiting every Australian community.

Other such schemes have included important assistance for Baby Health Centres and Bush Nursing Schemes, Autism Research, aid to Aborigines, assistance to Youth organisations, Talking Books for the Blind, Melanoma Research and establishing the Child Protection Trust.

Without doubt the most successful contribution provided by Apexians on a National basis was in 1977-78 when the Apex Club of Wollongong motivated the Association to raise \$1.3 million for research into the causes of and cures for children's leukaemia and cancer. "In real terms over 2,000 young lives have been saved!

The mid 1970's saw the Apex Foundation come into existence. The Foundation now administers well over \$8 million raised for service schemes. It provides an ongoing link with major projects and schemes of the past to ensure their ongoing assistance.

There is separate information on our Foundation included in your new member pack, and at [apexfoundation.org.au](http://apexfoundation.org.au). There are also some great stories in the 2 history books covering our first 50 years. Take the time to read them - there are some inspirational stories.



# The VIP Program for new Members

## WHAT IS THE VIP PROGRAM?

The VIP Program is a plan to orientate, involve and encourage participation of new members that have been inducted to Apex.

The Program is exclusively for first year Apexians, both new members in existing Clubs and charter members of new Clubs. The Award offers an organised method in which to promote the participation of new members. By earning the VIP Award, as a new member becomes a:

**Very Important Part of the Club**

## HOW DOES THE VIP PROGRAM WORK?

It is based on a point scale that has been carefully researched and studied by many Clubs.

A minimum 100 points must be completed during the first year of membership.

## WHY IS THE VIP PROGRAM HELPFUL TO NEW MEMBERS?

The VIP Program is designed to keep new members involved and active in the Club.

New members can become more enthusiastic in learning quickly about Apex and assists in developing your leadership skills.

## WHAT STEPS DO I FOLLOW TO EARN A VIP AWARD?

The Program is flexible and can, be adopted to suit individual Club's requirements. It is recommended you check with your President or Secretary for your Club's system; however, the basic principle is as follows: -

- In this Kit you will find a VIP Award Score Card. On the Score Card there are 19 categories. Several of these categories carry a higher point award, the highest total of 25 being earned for the sponsorship of a new member. Study the VIP Score Card for more details.
- Bring your VIP Score Card with you to all meetings for checking and filling in as you work your way to your 100 points.
- When you have achieved your 100 points give your VIP Score Card to your Club Secretary. This will then be forwarded to the Apex National Office and VIP Award certificate will be sent to the Club for presentation to you!

Congratulations by being inducted you have already achieved your first 5 points!





# Our Life Governors

Life Governorship is the highest honour that can be awarded upon an Apexian, awarded in recognition of meritorious and outstanding service to the Association. From the more than 200,000 Apexians to have volunteered their time in Australia, the following people are the only ones to have received this high honour:

1936 Eric Hooper Geelong  
1940 Sir Roy Fidge Geelong  
1942 Sir John Buchan Geelong  
1942 Ewen Laird Geelong  
1942 Langham Proud Geelong  
1945 Colin Campbell Bunbury  
1945 Stan Johnson Sydney  
1945 Tom Bellair Melbourne  
1946 Roy Birdsey Geelong  
1947 Bill Tresise Lismore  
1947 John Sykes Wollongong  
1947 Stan Jackling Albury  
1950 Tom Maguire Wollongong  
1951 John Northey Inverell  
1952 Langdon Parsons Glenelg  
1953 Herb Elliot Perth  
1954 Alan Rowland Glen Innes  
1954 Jack Squires Perth  
1957 Gordon Murray Geelong  
1959 Pete Garnsey Albury  
1960 Arthur Holden Morwell  
1961 Tony Miller Hamilton, Vic  
1964 Len Bosman Hurstville  
1965 Ralph Bower Perth  
1966 G.F. (Tig) Thomas Killara

1969 Bruce Clarke Quirindi  
1971 George Sprague Campsie  
1972 Dave Richards Terang  
1973 Richard Clampett Blackwood  
1974 Brian Horgan Croydon  
1976 Carl Bisson Byron Bay  
1978 Don Ferguson Killara  
1979 John Cleaves Cessnock  
1980 Graham Salter Caringbah  
1981 Tom Chapman Adelaide  
1982 Bill Belscher Bendigo  
1983 Ken Slatter Boort  
1983 Ross McLeod Lane Cove  
1984 John Russell Barmera  
1988 Peter Walsh Woy Woy  
1989 Terry Anderson Tea Tree Gully  
1990 Stephen Smith Wendouree  
1991 John Stokes Claremont  
1993 Jim Hughes Jindalee  
1994 John Phillips West Beach  
1995 Ray Vincent Berry  
1998 Andrew Philips Adelaide  
2005 Shane Kelly Wallaroo  
2019 Neil Sawley Kadina



# National Presidents of Apex Australia

1932 Eric Hooper Geelong  
 1933 Bill Belscher Bendigo  
 1934 Stan Jackling Albury  
 1935 John Buchan Geelong (part)  
 Colin George Camperdown  
 1936 Alan E. Edwards Wagga  
 Wagga  
 1937 Basil Jones Hobart  
 1939 John Sykes Wollongong  
 1941 Stan Johnson Sydney  
 1943 Tom Bellair Melbourne  
 1945 Bill Tresise Lismore  
 1947 Tom Maguire Wollongong  
 1949 Langdon Parsons Glenelg  
 1951 Alan Rowland Glen Innes  
 1953 Ernest White Orange  
 1955 Gordon Murray Geelong  
 1957 Arthur Holden Morwell  
 1959 Ralph Bower OAM Perth  
 1961 Graham Grose Mordialloc  
 1963 Doug Cameron Manly  
 1964 Kevin Tuckey Parkes  
 1965 G.F. (Tig) Thomas Killara  
 1966 Bruce Clarke Quirindi  
 1967 Dave Richards Terang  
 1968 George Sprague Campsie  
 1969 Peter Mayo Perth  
 1970 Carl Bisson Byron Bay  
 1971 Brian Horgan Croydon  
 1972 Tony Randall Lane Cove  
 1973 Brian Mathews Launceston  
 1974 Don Ferguson Killara  
 1975 John Cleaves Cessnock  
 1976 Tom Chapman Adelaide  
 1977 Graham Salter Caringbah  
 1978 Graham Sampson  
 Springwood, Qld  
 1979 Ian Main Launceston  
 1980 Ian Wolfgang Denman  
 1981 Peter Baulch Doncaster  
 1982 Peter Walsh Woy Woy  
 1983 Bob Gilliver Toowong/Kenmore  
 1984 Terry Anderson Tea Tree Gully  
 1985 Stephen Smith Wendouree  
 1986 John Phillips West Beach

1987 Brian Gill Springwood, Qld  
 1988 Alan Musgrave Forbes  
 1989 Iain Evans Stirling  
 1990 Jim Hughes Hobart  
 1990 Loraine Janssen Northern Adelaide  
 1991 Angus Redford Adelaide  
 1991 Diane English Brisbane Southwest  
 1992 Christina Boothby North Darwin  
 1993 Mark Ballin Ipswich  
 1993 Liz Keddle Adelaide Metro  
 1994 Wayne Hosier Maroubra  
 1994 Barbara Simpson/Chris McGurgan Forest  
 Area  
 1995 Shane Kelly Wallaroo  
 1995 Chris McGurgan Forest Area  
 1996 Gil Thomas Latrobe  
 1996 Carolyn Dare Townsville (Womens)  
 1997 Eric Accornero Herbert River  
 1997 Kath Venters Geelong (Womens)  
 1998 Mike Neville Griffith  
 1999 Mark Fishwick Emu Bay  
 2000 Stephen Gribbin Tamworth  
 2001 David Parsons Mansfield  
 2002 Ollie Dowd Wee Waa/Narrabri  
 2003 Bryan Whitehorn Glenelg  
 2004 Stuart Hughes Hoppers Crossing  
 2005 Bruce Kelman Esperance  
 2006 Phil Pregnell Kingston  
 2007 Rick Hose Maryborough  
 2008 Paul Gallagher Leeton  
 2009 Mark Wenzel Mt Barker  
 2010 Jeff Hardie Sarina  
 2011 Chris Morahan Brisbane City  
 2012 Chris Morahan Brisbane City  
 2013 Kate Huth Albany  
 2014 Nedd Golding Clare  
 2015 Jim McNall Maryborough Qld  
 2016 Mathew O'Donnell, Hoppers Crossing  
 2017 Moses Abraham, Chinchilla  
 2018 Neal Molineaux, Wagga Wagga  
 2019 Michael Godfrey, Wongan Hills  
 2020 Bethany Paterson, Kadina





Clockwise, from above. Setting up at the world-famous Camel Cup, organised by Apex in Alice Springs, Shirts organised by Ross River club in North Qld, new members joining Caboolture, the Gympie Music Muster, put on by Gympie Apex Club.





**Right** - Many clubs organise their own local enterprises which are used to support their local communities and raise money, such as Chinchilla's ColdRoom Hire.

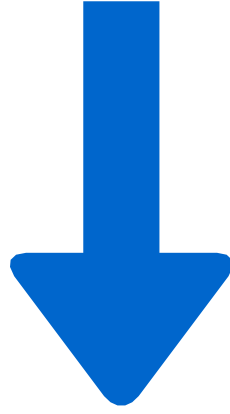
**Below** - 2014 sees the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Apex Australia and Philippines Bursary Student Program. Our clubs and members work directly with Apex Philippines to support students attending local schools.



**Right** - Ravin, Ross, Slossy and Mohan, at the Apex Malaysia National Convention.

**Below** - The Boys at Chinchilla helping at a Relay for Life.





# Welcome to Apex

**Service**

**Citizenship**

**Friendships**

**International**



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

