C4 INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

As soon as practicable after election, the new member should be inducted into Active Membership of the Club by the Club President. The Club President or Board may agree to have the induction performed by a visiting official, or by some other distinguished member or past member they consider appropriate for the occasion.

The induction of a new member should be seen as being of prime importance to the well being of each individual Club, and our Association as a whole. All present at an induction should recognise it as an occasion for dignity. The ceremony should be conducted to highlight the importance of the occasion to the new member, the Club and to all who are present.

Before the meeting at which the induction is to occur, the Club President should make sure that the Club has the 'New member's Kit', and the dinner badge. Ensure that the copy of the Ideals which is to be presented to the new member is personalised, signed and dated.

The Club President should also make sure that both the new member and their sponsor are fully aware of the format of the induction, its timing in the program and their role in it.

An induction is not only an important occasion for the new member, it is also an opportunity to honour the Apexian who has introduced the new member to the Club- the sponsor. By honouring the sponsor, the challenge should be issued to all members to invite other young people to share the experience of Apex.

At the appropriate time, the Chairman should call the meeting to order and hand the meeting over to the President. They should make initial remarks about the importance and dignity of the occasion. If the President is not conducting the induction they should now introduce the person who will.

At the request of the person conducting the induction, the sponsoring Apexian is invited to bring the new member forward and introduce them as a non member for the last time.

The person conducting the induction is free to choose the format for the ceremony, but as a minimum they should make reference to each of the following:

Obligations

- An Apexian must live up to the Ideals, both inside and outside of Apex
- Regular attendance at dinner meetings and service work (Apex cannot afford to retain inactive members)
- Introduce potential new members to the Club
- Wear the Apex (lapel) badge at all times
- Public acceptance of these obligations during the induction ceremony

History

- The creation of Apex, naming the Founders, the foundation Club and when, why and how it was formed
- The meaning of the Apex badge
- The meaning of the name "Apex"
- The Ideals.

Association particulars

- The nationwide coverage Apex continues to have, and the people who's lived have been changed through Apex
- Apex Australia Service Schemes and Projects (with mention of any that are current)
- Apex's international affiliations, aspirations and obligations (with mention of the World Council of Service Clubs).

Club particulars

- Year of formation
- Significant current and past service projects
- Acceptance of friendship of all fellow members.

At the completion of the ceremony, the person conducting the induction should formally introduce the new member to the Club as "Apexian ....." and ask that the new member be welcomed into the Club as they were, when they were inducted.

This is normally accepted as a cue for a standing ovation and, within the realms of practicality, personal congratulation and handshake from the other members. The new member is not expected to respond.

It cannot be over emphasized that the format of the induction is at the discretion of the person conducting it. All that is asked is that the occasion be meaningful and the ceremony be performed with dignity, and that the basic references be included. To provide assistance to those performing an induction for the first time we offer the following as two possible formats.

C5 A SUGGESTED INDUCTION CEREMONY

Inductor: "Apexians, there are few occasions in Apex which share the importance, meaning and dignity of an induction ceremony.

An occasion of importance because without new members our Club and Association will have neither the strength nor the future to serve our community in the way we have in the past.

An occasion of meaning because one of our members is showing, by example, that Apex is an organisation worth sharing.

And, an occasion for dignity because a young person has agreed to serve their community under the banner of the Ideals of our Association.

It is an occasion for us all to remember that the strength and commitment of our members is the strength and commitment of our Club. That new members are our life blood. We must all continue to invite young men/women from within our community to share Apex with us.

Tonight we must congratulate Apexian ..... for introducing a new member to our Club. I now invite him/her to bring forward ..... (new member) whom it is now my privilege to induct into the Apex Club of ..... ."

(To sponsor): "Have you explained the responsibilities and obligations of membership of Apex to ..... (new member) ?"

Sponsor: "Yes"

Inductor to new member: "Do you understand and accept that you must attend dinner meetings and service work regularly; in your public and private life you are required to do your best to live up to the ideals of Apex; we do not retain inactive members; and you are expected to share Apex by introducing others to Apex membership?"

Inductee: "Yes"

Inductor: " ..... (new member), it is my privilege to induct you into membership of the Apex Club of ..... . The Ideals of the Association of Apex Clubs are:

To make 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.

Our Association has Clubs in every corner of Australia, and by joining the Apex Club of ..... you are becoming associated with thousands of your fellow Australians who take action to improve our communities.

You are also associating yourself with Apexians around the Asia Pacific, including Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Bangladesh, India and Fiji.

The foundation of Apex is unique among the major service Club organisations. Three young Australians, Ewen Laird, Langham Proud and John Buchan saw the need for a young men's organisation to serve the community in Geelong. It was at the time of the great depression that their ideas were floated. Some four months later on 10th March 1931, their concepts were transformed into reality with the adoption of the name "Apex", meaning the height of ambition. The creators of Apex had high ideals. It is up to us to apply ourselves with the greatest effort possible to continue from the foundations which they laid.

We must develop ourselves for citizenship in our community. By example, we must attempt to influence others with the fine ideals of Apex, so that Apex can assist with the development of an improved quality of life for all sectors of the community.

I now have pleasure in presenting you with a lapel badge. The badge is in the form of an equilateral triangle. The base of the triangle represents citizenship. The sides represent service and fellowship. It is important to remember that all three are of equal importance to the welfare of our Club, our Association and the community we serve. Within the triangle is a rising sun, the rays are symbolic of the rising generation of youth, and at the bottom of the badge is the word 'Australia' reminding us Apex has an influence well beyond our local community. We ask you to wear this badge at all times so that you may be recognised as an Apexian wherever you may be.

This dinner badge is for you to wear at all Apex meetings and official functions. On it you will see your name and your vocation. By wearing your dinner badge you will find that there are no strangers in Apex, just friends you haven't met.

Here is some information on Apex, its achievements and workings. When you read this you will understand why we are all extremely proud to be known as Apexians. We hope that you will share our pride in Apex, our commitment to its ideals, and accept our mission to grow, learn, make friends and to have fun while helping others.

From tonight ..... (new member) you are a member of the Apex Club of ..... , a member of an Association of Fellowship, Service and Citizenship. Remember that Apex is a life to be lived.

Apex is a philosophy promoting high ideals of service for human welfare and community betterment through an acceptance by all members of a sense of personal responsibility towards their fellow man.

Our own Club has an impressive record. (Mention your Club background, including examples of local people and organisations your club has helped).

I congratulate you, and hope that your association with Apex will be long and that it will bring satisfaction to you and your family.

(Inductor shakes hands with the new member, then addresses all Club members).

Apexians, ... is now a member of the Apex Club of ..... , I ask that you stand and welcome him/her into Apex in the manner that you were welcomed, when you were inducted."

(There should be no response from the new member).

C6 AN ALTERNATIVE INDUCTION CEREMONY

Inductor: "Apexians, you should all be aware of the history of Apex. How three young architects were motivated by the difficulties of the depression in Geelong, Victoria. Ewen Laird, Langham Proud and John Buchan were responsible for the birth of an organisation when, on the 10th March, 1931, the name Apex, meaning the height of ambition, was adopted and the Apex Club of Geelong came into being.

The Ideals of the fledgling organisation were formulated:

To make 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.

Membership of Apex is available to all young men and women throughout Australia.

With ideals encouraging an aggressive involvement in community affairs, and with a rule promoting a younger, more vigorous membership, it is not surprising that Apexians have always had a challenge to find new members. The same challenge exists in our own Club.

It is extremely pleasing to note that Apexian ..... has accepted this challenge to find new members and I now invite him/her to bring ..... forward so that we may induct him/her into Active Membership of our Club.

(Pause while the sponsor brings the inductee forward)

Ladies/Gentlemen, I have given an outline of the history of our organisation. Tonight ..... is being inductedinto membership of our Club. He/she is becoming a member of our Association. An Association which has changed the lives of people throughout every part of Australia. Through the efforts of many members from our past, he/she will also be sharing the bond of fellowship and a commitment to our Ideals, and the title 'Apexian' with similar young people throughout the Asia Pacific.

..... in inducting you into our Club I would like to present you with official recognition of your membership.

This lapel pin is the symbol of your membership of Apex. It is the badgeof Apex. The base of the triangle represents citizenship - the development of community leadership and motivation for an improved quality of life. One side represents service - the tangible form of an Apexian's work in the community. The third side represents fellowship- the enjoyment and fun of belonging to our Club and Association. Within the triangle are the rays of the rising sun - symbolic of the rising generation of youth, and the word 'International' recognising the ideal of international relations

Please wear the badge with pride at all times.

This dinner badge is your passport to Apex. It should be worn at all official meetings and functions. It contains your name and vocation and will serve to introduce you to all other members wherever you may be."