

# 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 free to discuss them with your fellow Club members.

Apex is a non religious and non political 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 have 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.

Look at some of the following:

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

How many benefits listed there 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!

## 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..



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## • 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 have 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.



# 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..



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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.

Just a few of these events that happen every year around Australia include:

Hosting the annual Christmas Street Parade in Launceston, Tasmania, with dozens of home made 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.



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# 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..

Other roles might include: + Membership Director + Fundraising + Youth  
+ Commissariat + Newsletter Editor + Sergeant at Arms  
+ International Relations Director + Social Director

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 is 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.

Join the **Apex Australia Members Page on Facebook.com**. This page is only open to Apex members, past and present, and if you have any Apex related questions (or compliments and gripes) that is the best way to get an answer.

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 monthly newsletter for our members and this a great source of information about what clubs are doing around the country. (most of the time your email is added to the subscriber list when your membership application is received, so don't worry if you get an error message when attempting to subscribe.

For 2014/15 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 **President, Nedd Golding on pres@apex.org.au**, and our Directors:

Jason Hewett - finance@apex.org.au Sarah Clark - aatfa@apex.org.au  
Neal Molineaux- regional@apex.org.au Mark O'Donnell - communications@apex.org.au  
Mat O'Donnell - membership@apex.org.au Tim Niikkula - compliance@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 or AGM**, where there is also valuable face to face training for Apexians. It's a great weekend away - highly recommended! The next one is at Blacktown in September, 2015. Look out for more information on our website or Facebook as the time gets closer.



# 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.

## 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 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, similar to 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.

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# Our History

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 came 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.



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# 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:

**V**ery **I**mportant **P**art 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	1969 Bruce Clarke Quirindi
1940 Sir Roy Fidge Geelong	1971 George Sprague Campsie
1942 Sir John Buchan Geelong	1972 Dave Richards Terang
1942 Ewen Laird Geelong	1973 Richard Clampett Blackwood
1942 Langham Proud Geelong	1974 Brian Horgan Croydon
1945 Colin Campbell Bunbury	1976 Carl Bisson Byron Bay
1945 Stan Johnson Sydney	1978 Don Ferguson Killara
1945 Tom Bellair Melbourne	1979 John Cleaves Cessnock
1946 Roy Birdsey Geelong	1980 Graham Salter Caringbah
1947 Bill Tresise Lismore	1981 Tom Chapman Adelaide
1947 John Sykes Wollongong	1982 Bill Belscher Bendigo
1947 Stan Jackling Albury	1983 Ken Slatter Boort
1950 Tom Maguire Wollongong	1983 Ross McLeod Lane Cove
1951 John Northey Inverell	1984 John Russell Barmera
1952 Langdon Parsons Glenelg	1988 Peter Walsh Woy Woy
1953 Herb Elliot Perth	1989 Terry Anderson Tea Tree Gully
1954 Alan Rowland Glen Innes	1990 Stephen Smith Wendouree
1954 Jack Squires Perth	1991 John Stokes Claremont
1957 Gordon Murray Geelong	1993 Jim Hughes Jindalee
1959 Pete Garnsey Albury	1994 John Phillips West Beach
1960 Arthur Holden Morwell	1995 Ray Vincent Berry
1961 Tony Miller Hamilton, Vic	1998 Andrew Philips Adelaide
1964 Len Bosman Hurstville	2005 Shane Kelly Wallaroo
1965 Ralph Bower Perth	
1966 G.F. (Tig) Thomas Killara	



# National Presidents of Apex Australia

1932 Eric Hooper Geelong	1984 Terry Anderson Tea Tree Gully
1933 Bill Belscher Bendigo	1985 Stephen Smith Wendouree
1934 Stan Jackling Albury	1986 John Phillips West Beach
1935 John Buchan Geelong (part)	1987 Brian Gill Springwood, Qld
Colin George Camperdown	1988 Alan Musgrave Forbes
1936 Alan E. Edwards Wagga Wagga	1989 Iain Evans Stirling
1937 Basil Jones Hobart	1990 Jim Hughes Hobart
1939 John Sykes Wollongong	1990 Loraine Janssen Northern Adelaide
1941 Stan Johnson Sydney	1991 Angus Redford Adelaide
1943 Tom Bellair Melbourne	1991 Diane English Brisbane South West
1945 Bill Tresise Lismore	1992 Christina Boothby North Darwin
1947 Tom Maguire Wollongong	1993 Mark Ballin Ipswich
1949 Langdon Parsons Glenelg	1993 Liz Keddie Adelaide Metro
1951 Alan Rowland Glen Innes	1994 Wayne Hosier Maroubra
1953 Ernest White Orange	1994 Barbara Simpson/Chris McGurgan Forest Area
1955 Gordon Murray Geelong	1995 Shane Kelly Wallaroo
1957 Arthur Holden Morwell	1995 Chris McGurgan Forest Area
1959 Ralph Bower OAM Perth	1996 Gil Thomas Latrobe
1961 Graham Grose Mordialloc	1996 Carolyn Dare Townsville Womens
1963 Doug Cameron Manly	1997 Eric Accornero Herbert River
1964 Kevin Tuckey Parkes	1997 Kath Venters Geelong Womens
1965 G.F. (Tig) Thomas Killara	1998 Mike Neville Griffith
1966 Bruce Clarke Quirindi	1999 Mark Fishwick Emu Bay
1967 Dave Richards Terang	2000 Stephen Gribbin Tamworth
1968 George Sprague Campsie	2001 David Parsons Mansfield
1969 Peter Mayo Perth	2002 Ollie Dowd Wee Waa/Narrabri
1970 Carl Bisson Byron Bay	2003 Bryan Whitehorn Glenelg
1971 Brian Horgan Croydon	2004 Stuart Hughes Hoppers Crossing
1972 Tony Randall Lane Cove	2005 Bruce Kelman Esperance
1973 Brian Mathews Launceston	2006 Phil Pregnell Kingston
1974 Don Ferguson Killara	2007 Rick Hose Maryborough
1975 John Cleaves Cessnock	2008 Paul Gallagher Leeton
1976 Tom Chapman Adelaide	2009 Mark Wenzel Mt Barker
1977 Graham Salter Caringbah	2010 Jeff Hardie Sarina
1978 Graham Sampson Springwood, Qld	2011 Chris Morahan Brisbane City
1979 Ian Main Launceston	2012 Chris Morahan Brisbane City
1980 Ian Wolfgang Denman	2013 Kate Huth Albany
1981 Peter Baulch Doncaster	2014 Nedd Golding Clare
1982 Peter Walsh Woy Woy	
1983 Bob Gilliver Toowong/Kenmore	





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.



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Right - Many clubs organise their own local enterprises which are used to support their local communities and raise money, such as Chinchilla's Cold Room 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 a Goondiwindi Club Meeting.

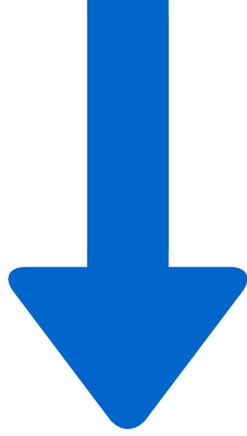


Below - The Boys at Chinchilla helping at a Relay for Life.



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# Welcome to Apex

**Service**

**Citizenship**

**Friendships**

**International**

