



Roaring 40's Magazine September 2025

Official publication for Apex 40 Australia Inc.
Apex 40 Australia Inc. is the recognized
body of affiliated past Apexians groups.

2026 REPORT



**Discovery Princess Cruise,
28 Mar 2026, 10 nights,
Sydney to North Qld to Sydney**

For Continuing Fellowship

Apex 40 Australia Inc. is not a Service Club, but an organisation formed to foster fellowship among past Apexians and their partners, and to retain the many friendships formed during their Apex years.

It also exists to assist Apex, when asked, and not to operate in opposition to Apex. It is open to past members and their partners, and Ex-World Councillors who have retired from their respective organisations.

Some Apex 40 members decided to form sub-committees which are generally based around past or present Apex Club locations. These sub-committees may meet monthly or less regularly, but all with a view to maintaining and fostering friendships and occasionally providing assistance to Apex Clubs.

Each year members from Apex 40 gather for a weekend to attend the Annual Convention known as 'The Rort'. During this weekend there is a brief interruption to the festivities to conduct the necessary formality of The Annual General Meeting. In the past, after the RORT, a Post-RORT tour of 4 or 5 days duration has been programmed, visiting areas surrounding the town hosting The Rort. In future both events may be combined and shortened to reduce costs.

The socialising of individual members with each other, across the whole organisation, never ceases. When on an interstate holiday, for example, members invariably look up acquaintances and friends made during the Rorts. It is a huge social club and fosters friendships among whole families.

Membership is open to all past members of Apex, their partners and members of affiliated clubs.



President's Report

Vic Ashby. Nepean Valley. NSW.

Presidents Report

Gee Isn't this year flying past.

It hardly seems like yesterday when I was penning my first report as President.

I have been making the time to get out and about visiting Sub Committees. I was in attendance at the Great 8's Christmas in July and AGM and it was a great night, and I have visited Wyong where I was privileged to present three OBE's (Over Blooming Eighty) and Nepean valley AGM.

As we go to press, I'll be down in the south of NSW in the Riverina Visiting Leeton and will be presenting three OBE's (Over Blooming Eighty). I'm certainly looking forward to catching up with them.

Whilst down that way I'll also be paying Melbourne Gippsland a visit and I'm also hoping a visit to Melbourne -Norwesters will be possible as well.

The 2026 Cruise is not too far away now, it's six months to go now, and it's shaping up to be a great time. At last count I'm informed there are 52 Members who have booked, however there is still time for the undecided to book.

Whilst on the subject of RORTS there have been three sub committees who have expressed an interest in running a RORT with Nepean Valley assisting Jamie and Marg Vincent putting their proposal to the recent Nation Board Meeting. Inverell and Leeton are also interested in hosting a RORT in the next couple of years.

A bit later in the year I'll be heading up North to pay Inverell and Queensland subcommittees a visit, so I'll be in touch soon.

Well, that's all for me right now.

Cheers Vic Ashby (President)



National Vice President
Bill Cramp, Redlands. Qld.

Vice President's September Report

In the recent past I have found this time of the year short on news of activities around the sub-committees, however in my new role as VP things have not been dormant.

As a result of the changes to our Constitution approved at the Broken Hill Rort, the Association By-laws needed to be updated as well. This encouraged Secretary Col to look at the job descriptions for all directors, resulting a flow of drafts and amendments. Checking the fine print and attempting to get it right has been educating. I am glad the position of Secretary is not on my to-do list! An outcome of the updated job description, the VP is tasked to co-ordinate with the next Rort Committee and report to the board meetings.

Quite a few of our members from Victoria spend some of the winter months caravanning in northern NSW and southern Qld. Now members from New South Wales and Queensland that can make it join in and spend a couple of weeks in July/August on holiday. I had the pleasure of catching up with this year's gang for a luncheon at Brunswick Heads, hosted by Alstonville on 1st August. This promotes our ideal of "continuing the fellowship" and now held annually in honour of the late Alan Kinder.

Bill Cramp.
vicepresident@apex40.com



Secretaries Report

Col Ramsay. Wynnum Manly. Qld



From the Desk of the Secretary:

As for the Secretarial bit, our new directors are now registered with the Office of Fair Trading and ASIC.

Cruise Rort 2026:

Bookings are still trickling in, and we are currently at 62 with several more members enquiring. If you book through another agent, please send me details of your booking so that I can add it to the Rort attendance register.

The contact person is:

Gabbie 07 3861 9011

gabbie@yourtravelandcruise.com.au.

WEB site:

Ken has completed a major update to the WEB page including posting of the National Board Position descriptions as well as a detailed breakdown of Rort procedures, thank you Ken.

If you have any stories or pictures of Apex40 or your Apex days, please forward them to Ken at web@apex40.com so that we can all share them.

Please peruse <https://apex40.com.au/> for the latest news and updates.

Apex 40 Facebook page can be found at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1543334949270004>

Just a reminder of our new postal and physical addresses:

Postal: POBox 211
Burpengary
QLD 4505

Registered: 181 1-37 Caulfield Drive
Burpengary East
Qld 4505

Col Ramsay
National Secretary
0419 253 030



Treasurer's Report.
Keith Miller. Nepean Valley. N.S.W.

FROM THE TREASURERS DESK

The Profit & Loss report for the Broken Hill Rort is shown below.

SOURCE INCOME	24/25	25/26	TOTAL
Donation		\$20.00	
Fines		\$253.45	
Raffles		\$430.00	
2025 RORT Income	\$124.50	\$64,475.00	
2024 Adjust.	\$1.54		
Discounts Received Buses		\$800.00	
SUB-TOTAL	\$126.04	\$65,978.45	\$66,104.49
EXPENDITURE			
Donations		\$750.00	
2025 RORT Admin	\$124.50	\$2,065.46	
2025 RORT Room Hire		\$750.00	
2025 RORT Catering		\$34,733.81	
2025 RORT Shuttle Bus		\$1,279.21	
2025 RORT Tours		\$5,904.50	
2025 RORT Transport		\$19,119.26	
2025 RORT Entertainment		\$450.00	
2025 Late Cancellations TBC		\$1,625.00	
SUB-TOTAL	\$124.50	\$66,677.24	\$66,801.74
NET RESULT	\$1.54	-\$698.79	-\$697.25

We haven't finalised the 2025 Broken Hill RORT financials at this stage, as we are still awaiting the receipt of one Invoice from the Mining Museum, however, here are the 2025 RORT figures to date (including the outstanding invoice).

Rorters attending the 2026 Cruise RORT are reminded that National Board have place a \$10 per person registration fee to cover Admin costs of the RORT. Invoices have been emailed to those who have booked on the cruise to date. Payment should be made as soon as practical. Payment details are shown at foot of Invoice. Please note that if you wish to pay for your 2026 RORT fees by Credit card/debit card, we have established a link on our Apex 40 Australia Inc web page. Click on the following link [RORTresponse](#) and select the Credit Card payment option.

For the purpose of the 2026 RORT, all Credit/Debit card processing fees (currently 2.25%) will be absorbed by Apex 40 Australia Inc as a one-off concession.

564732
Mr K Miller
National Treasurer
Apex 40 Australia Inc

02 July 2025

*Thank you for helping the
Royal Flying Doctor Service save lives.*

Dear Mr Miller,

Thank you so much for your generous recent donation of \$750.00. You'll find your tax-deductible receipt at the bottom of this letter.

Your kindness allows our Flying Doctors to be there no matter where or when they're needed, so they can keep saving the lives of those in the furthest corners of Australia.

Your donation will also help to bring remote, rural, and regional communities the crucial health services they would otherwise miss out on.

When a mum goes into labour early, or there's been a serious road accident, or a young farmer is battling depression alone – your generosity will help us be there.

Thank you for supporting the Royal Flying Doctor Service – and the people whose lives and health depend on it. Together we can continue to make a difference to Outback Australia.

Warm regards,



Greg Sam
Chief Executive Officer – South Eastern Section

Keith Miller
National Treasurer 2025/2026
Mobile 0408 118 290



Webmaster
Ken Wright. Nepean Valley. N.S.W.

Our webpage serves as a source to find out about our organisation and recently I have updated the "Job Descriptions" for anybody wishing to join the National Board. These descriptions are available on all platforms that have a web browser.

If you have any ideas on what items/topics would like to see on the webpage – let me know

Ken and Janice Wright
Webmaster



Membership Report

Maggie, Nepean Valley. NSW.

Membership Report August 2025

I don't have much to report since the last Roaring 40s was published. Unexpected family events and a holiday have filled our time recently but I can tell you that we have started the planning for a new Apex 40 Committee on the lower end of the Central Coast, we have 5 ex-Apexians and their partners interested in meeting for lunch in the coming months to discuss the possibility of a Gosford Sub Committee commencing. I will update you in our next edition. Take care everyone.

Maggie Vincent

Mobile: 0434 315 327

membership@apex40.com



IRO Report.

Robyn Thorley. Great 8. N.S.W.

Greetings from a cold and wet Hunter Valley!

I continue to reach out to 16 affiliated clubs around the world, it's always exciting when I get news from them!

Dr Sid Siddharthan from 41 International, has requested that Australia promote Prostate Cancer Awareness and as Apex 40 does not undertake service schemes National Board has decided to support any Apex clubs around Australia in their continuing efforts to support men through their journey with Prostate Cancer. More elsewhere in this publication.

I have received a very newsy letter from Derek Johns, Immediate Past President of 41 Club New Zealand who advised me that Les Rogers from Blenheim passed away at the beginning of August. Many of our members may have met Les on visits to N.Z. over the years.

N.Z.'s Annual Camping trip to Mapua in Nelson area is coming up in September, and they are planning their 2026 Reunion in Blenheim but no further details as yet except that Reunion commences for meet and greet Tuesday 14th April and farewell breakfast is Friday 17th April 2026. I hope these dates help Apex 40 members plan their next journey across the ditch! I have

contacts for all office bearers if anyone needs a contact to help you plan. I've also had emails from Judy Murphy re same, it's great to have such a great connection with our pacific neighbours, and I believe some have also booked on the cruise in March 2026.

Just a reminder that the Apex National Convention is coming up from 9th to 11th October 2025 at Blacktown, and they are hoping for a good representation from Apex 40 members, please go to their website for more information, otherwise, I'm sure Keith Miller would be happy to give you more info.

Don't forget, if you are travelling and connect with other Roundtable 41's or other affiliates please let me know.

Robyn Thorley

IRO & AL.



From the Editor's Desk
Chris Palmer Great 8. N.S.W.

Welcome to the September issue of the Roaring 40, a big thanks to all those who provided input.

Don Le Cudennec from Inverell Apex 40 has made a very valuable contribution in providing meeting and contact details for the group. This simple idea allows travelling members to interact with Inverell if passing through.

This information will now appear in every issue in the **Around the Sub Committees** area and I recommend that all groups provide similar information to create a directory of sorts.

I am also more than happy to publish any sub committee news, photos, jokes, gender reveals, engagements or weddings. It makes my job just a little bit easier.

Dr. Sid Siddharthan, President, 41 INTERNATIONAL, the Round Table equivalent of Apex 40 has contacted us requesting support in promoting their Prostate Cancer service scheme. Given the age of our membership I believe its worthwhile to promote Prostate Cancer awareness within our organisation.

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in Australian men, with about 26,000 men newly diagnosed each year. I have attached some information from the Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia for your review.

The next issue will be just prior to Christmas, so get all your Christmas messages ready.

Send any items to roaring@Apex40.com

Chris Palmer
Roaring 40 Editor
roaring@Apex40.com

Having a bad day?

Fire authorities in California found a corpse in a burned-out section of forest while assessing the damage done by a forest fire. The deceased male was dressed in a full wet suit, complete with scuba tanks on his back, flippers, and face mask.

A post-mortem test revealed that the man died not from burns, but from massive internal injuries. Dental records provided a positive identification. Investigators then set about to determine how a fully clothed diver ended up in the middle of a forest fire.

It was revealed that on the day of the fire, the man went diving off the coast, some 20 miles from the forest. The fire fighters, seeking to control the fire as quickly as possible, had called in a fleet of helicopters with very large dip buckets. Water was dipped from the ocean and emptied at the site of the forest fire.

You guessed it. One minute our diver was making like Flipper in the Pacific, the next, he was doing the breaststroke in a fire dip bucket 300 feet in the air.

Some days it just doesn't pay to get out of bed. but keep reading....

Still think you're having a bad day.

A man was working on his motorcycle on the patio, his wife nearby in the kitchen. While racing the engine, the motorcycle accidentally slipped into gear. The man, still holding onto the handlebars, was dragged along as it burst through the glass patio doors.

His wife, hearing the crash, ran in the room to find her husband cut and bleeding, the motorcycle, and the shattered patio door. She called for an ambulance and, because the house sat on a fairly large hill, went down the several flights of stairs to meet the paramedics and escort them to her husband.

While the attendants were loading her husband, the wife managed to right the motorcycle and push it outside. She also quickly blotted up the spilled petrol with some paper towels and tossed them into the toilet.

After being treated and released, the man returned home, looked at the shattered patio door and the damage done to his motorcycle. He went into the bathroom and consoled himself with a cigarette while attending to his business. About to stand, he flipped the butt between his legs.

The wife, who was in the kitchen, heard a loud explosion and her husband screaming. Finding him lying on the bathroom floor with his trousers blown away and burns on his buttocks, legs and groin, she once again phoned for an ambulance. The same paramedic crew was dispatched.

As the paramedics carried the man down the stairs to the ambulance, they asked the wife how he had come to burn himself. She told them.

They started laughing so hard, one slipped, the stretcher dumping the husband out. He fell down the remaining stairs, breaking his arm.

Still having a bad day?

Just remember, it could be worse.

The average cost of rehabilitating a seal after the Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska was \$80,000. At a special ceremony, two of the most expensively saved animals were being released back into the

wild amid cheers and applause from onlookers. A minute later, in full view, a killer whale ate them both.

Still think you are having a bad day.

A woman came home to find her husband in the kitchen shaking frantically, almost in a dancing frenzy, with some kind of wire running from his waist towards the electric kettle. Intending to jolt him away from the deadly current, she whacked him with a handy plank of wood, breaking his arm in two places. Up to that moment, he had been happily listening to his Walkman.

STILL think you're having a bad day.

Two animal rights protesters were protesting at the cruelty of sending pigs to a slaughterhouse in Bonn, Germany. Suddenly, all two thousand pigs broke loose and escaped through a broken fence, stampeding madly. The two hapless protesters were trampled to death.

What? STILL having a bad day.

Iraqi terrorist Khay Rahnajet didn't pay enough postage on a letter bomb. It came back with 'return to sender' stamped on it. Forgetting it was the bomb, he opened it and was blown to bits.

There now, feeling better?



Around the Sub-Committees

New South Wales

Alstonville

740 kms North of Sydney

Doin' it tough again! Once again, we enjoyed a great meal & importantly great fellowship & we did spot a couple of whales, which was lovely.

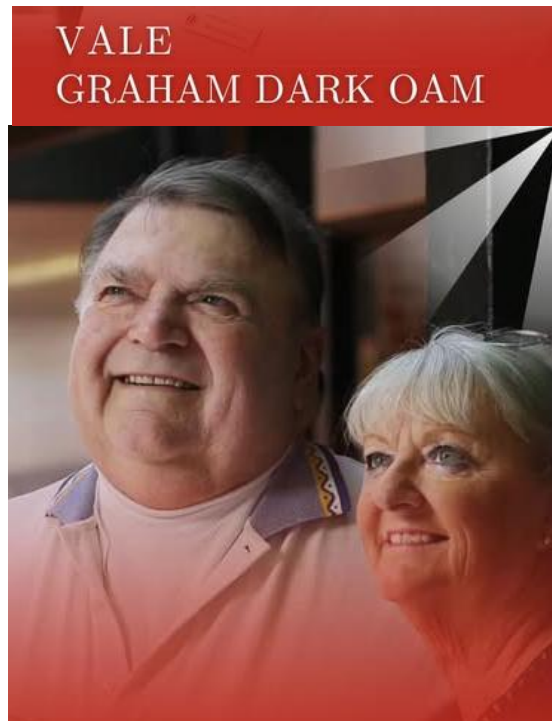


Byron Bay
Blue Mountains Crest
Great 8 Hunter Valley

760 kms North of Sydney

100 kms West of Sydney

Sydney is 170kms South



Graham Claud Dark OAM
17/11/1952 - 26/07/2025

Maitland has lost a devoted community leader in Graham Dark OAM.

Graham had served his community through thirty organisations over forty years.

Among those were:

- ❖ Foundation member of the West Maitland Centennial Lions Club
- ❖ Scouts
- ❖ PCYC
- ❖ U3A,
- ❖ Maitland Historical Society
- ❖ East Maitland Apex
- ❖ Great 8 Apex 40
- ❖ Maitland Council as a councillor.
- ❖ Chair and instrumental in reviving the Maitland AM/OAM, Freeman of the City & Citizen of the Year Fellowship

A Memorial Service in Celebration of Graham's life was held at Maitland Town Hall and was addressed by the Mayor Philip Penfold and local MP, Jenny Atchison.

Great 8 Apex 40 represents the old Apex Zone 10 District 8 and is based in the Lower Hunter Valley town of Maitland. Great 8 meets, generally, on the third Friday of the month at various venues. Visiting members can contact Chris Palmer (0427 549 688) to see if the planets align.

Inverell

560 kms NW of Sydney

Men meet on 3rd Wednesday night each month @Tatts Hotel for dinner Ladies meet 1st Thursday night each month at different venues for dinner We occasionally have mixed nights, and our members (although small in number) are very happy for the excuse if anyone is visiting Inverell to arrange a meeting Contact: 0437 985 218 (Don)



Inverell Apex 40 mixed night held in June at the Tatts Hotel

Leeton

590 kms SW of Sydney

Lismore

745 kms North of Sydney

Manly

15 kms East of Sydney.

Moree

640 kms NW of Sydney.

Nepean Valley

60 kms West of Sydney.

Wyang

100kms North of Sydney

We had a great lunch last month at Shelley Beach SLSC. Sandy Harmer told us about her recent trip to Mongolia and Allan Kember ordered first, as usual.

Marie and Dennis H



We had 25 at The Royal, Wyong on 26th June to celebrate Dennis, Kevin and Sandra's OBE. It was great to see Viv and Denis Bradshaw again, plus Ann and Peter Ryall.

Note Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip passing through Wyong by train over 70 years ago by Dennis' collar. Nippers, Dennis and Kevin were waving flags as they passed by.

I presented Dennis with a portrait of himself, as he was before I met him almost 40 years ago.



Victoria

Bendigo

Dandenong Valley

Geelong

Melbourne-Gippsland

153 kms North of Melbourne.

35 kms South of Melbourne

73 kms SW of Melbourne

40 kms East of Melbourne



Melbourne/Gippsland Apex 40 Club had some celebrations at our last meeting; the most important highlight was the 99th birthday of Jean Goff whose family also joined us to add to the celebration.

Amongst other celebrations were Colin & Marianne Speirs celebrating their 67th Wedding Anniversary and Colin his 90th; President Garth and Treasurer Alex their 83rd (the young brigade of the Club) and coming up in October Nola Kinder will also come up to her 90th.





Top Left: - Geoff & Lyn Angus, Briony Mainwaring & son Ewing.
 Top Right: -Son of Jean Goff, Don, Nola Kinder, Neil Hookey & son Trevor.
 Middle Left: - Marj Flaherty (Secretary). Carol Simons (partner Garth), Marianne & Colin Speirs.
 Middle right: - Jean Goff's daughter Win and son Don.
 Bottom Left: - Alex Jurga (Treasurer), Garth Whitchurch (President).
 Bottom Right: - Daughter-in-law Fran and Jean Goff.

Melbourne Nor-Westerns
Melbourne Sou-Westerns
Sunraysia

22 kms NW of Melbourne
 270 kms SW of Melbourne
 546 kms NW of Melbourne

Queensland
Bundaberg
Caloundra
Central Queensland

165 kms North of Brisbane
 103 kms North of Brisbane
 636 kms North of Brisbane

Curtis Coast
Gold Coast
Hervey Bay
Ipswich
Maryborough
Redlands

530 kms North of Brisbane

80 kms South of Brisbane

290 kms North of Brisbane

43 kms SW of Brisbane

290 kms North of Brisbane

35 kms South of Brisbane

Photos from a recent meeting at Indigiscapes



Wynnum Manly

20 kms East of Brisbane

The Group met at Colmslie Hotel and proceeded to have a great day of fellowship. It was also a time to celebrate National Secretary Col Ramsay's and his wife Phyl's upcoming birthdays. A special one for Col as he reaches that magic OBE status!



XEPA Great South East

30 kms SE of Brisbane

Great attendance at the XEPA lunch at the Cleveland Bowls Club.



South Australia Adelaide Hills

35 kms SE of Adelaide

Tasmania Devonport

255 kms NW of Hobart

12 members of the Devonport group recently hit the local 10 pin bowling alley for a Sunday afternoon of Bowling.

With the bumpers out there were plenty of laughs as a few, still managed to squeeze the ball through without taking any pins much to the enjoyment of their colleagues.

Mike Badcock (closest to camera on the left) and David Dunham on the right won their respective lanes.

Injuries significantly outnumbered strikes.



Launceston

200 kms North of Hobart

Our Apex 40 Club met at All Year Round Hotel for Sunday lunch. Menu was very comprehensive, and all enjoyed their main course. Only one couple indulged in a Banana Split which they shared. The rest were too full.

Last month we had Christmas in July at the Launceston Casino, which was well supported.

Next month we are planning a trip to Bridport where Sunday lunch is booked at the local restaurant.



Apex Australia News

Apex Australia National Convention is coming in October 2025 let's all make a difference.



Apex Foundation News.

An excerpt from the Apex Foundation Quarterly Newsletter: April 2025

The S.H.A.C.K.

Shoalhaven Heads Apex Cottages for Kids

A Legacy of Care, A Future Worth Supporting

Since 1992, the SHACK (Shoalhaven Heads Apex Cottages for Kids) has provided thousands of family holidays over more than 30 years—a peaceful and welcoming haven for families of children living with disabilities or chronic health conditions. Located in Shoalhaven Heads on the NSW South Coast, this beautiful property—just two hours south of Sydney—offers six fully self-contained, two-bedroom units, thoughtfully designed to give families a much-needed break from the daily challenges of care and treatment.

Thanks to the unwavering dedication of the Apex Foundation and local Apex members, the SHACK has become a cherished place of retreat. Over the years, thousands of families have visited the cottages, often returning year after year. It's not just about the accommodation—it's about providing a safe, tranquil space for families to reconnect, breathe, and make happy memories. Managed today under the Apex Foundation's Underprivileged Children's Trust, the SHACK continues to operate with the same grassroots spirit, supported by generous donations, Apexians' hard work, and the heartfelt contributions of volunteers.

2026 RORT



**Discovery Princess Cruise,
28 Mar 2026, 10 nights,
Sydney to North Qld to Sydney**



Ship: Discovery Princess
Date: 28th March
Departure: Sydney
Duration 10 nights
Itinerary: Sydney, Willis Island, Port Douglas,
Yorky's Knob, Airlie Beach, Brisbane, Sydney

2026 RORT CONTACT.

Gabbie

Tel: 07 3861 9011

Email: gabbie@yourtravelandcruise.com.au

Keep sending in your pictures, club notices and general stories of interest so they can be shared with the rest of the Apex 40 community through our *Roaring 40's* publication.



WEB: www.apex40.com

FACEBOOK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1543334949270004/>
Or search for Apex 40 Australia Inc

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