
APEX 40



A Brief History of the Early Days

One balmy Sunday evening
in 1972, during a cruise on
the Swan River in WA, the
idea of Apex 40 was born



Neil



Lionel

The two men cruising the river that evening after the 1972 Apex National Convention at Subiaco, were Apexians Neil Hookey and Lionel Mussell and their idea of an organisation for retired Apexians, was wholeheartedly endorsed by then Zone 12 President David Cotton.

Some months later, Lionel invited selected ex-Apexians and their wives to a barbecue at the Devilbend reservoir on the Mornington Peninsula with the aim of starting what was to become Apex 40. Rain intervened and the gathering adjourned to Lionel and Vi's home at Mornington

Present at the inaugural bbq were Lionel and Vi Mussell, Alan and Nola Kinder, David and Judith Saunders, Kevin and Rosemary Frazer, Lee and Shirley Garrett.

A number of important decisions are made that day. One of the most important was that wives would be full members - this was in recognition of the wonderful support Apexians always got from their spouses.

It was decided that the name of the organisation would be Apex 40 and that those at the meeting would constitute a Steering Committee to guide the organisation through its inaugural stages. The committee would cease when an elected committee took over.

An invitation would be sent to likely members for Apex 40 Dinner Meeting No 1 at the Keysborough Hotel on the 14th of December, 1973.

The invitations were duly sent using the first Apex 40 newsletter called 'The Message Stick' that later became 'The Roaring 40s'.

Our first Dinner Meetings

There were 52 people at our first dinner meeting including former Mornington Apexian, The Hon Alan Hunt and Zone President David Cotton and his wife Pat. The cost of the dinner was \$4!

There had been a meeting of the steering committee on the 25th of November and although the minutes are not available I remember that several important decisions were made.

It was agreed that membership would be open to retired members and their wives, Life Members and their wives and former members who had retired early in good standing plus any members of affiliated organisations like Kin 40, Round Table and 20/30.

The name Apex 40 was endorsed and, although this caused some problems with Apex later on, it has been retained to this day.

Our second dinner meeting was held at the Keysborough hotel on the 11th of February and saw 40 members present to hear an interesting talk by the Melbourne City Coroner, Harry Pascoe.

Another committee meeting was held on March 3rd and it appears that an election had been held with Office Bearers including President: Lionel Mussell, Secretary/Treasurer: Kevin Frazer and Expansion Director, Alan Kinder.

It was reported that there were now 66 members and a programme of events for the year was arranged. The name for the Newsletter was changed to 'The Roaring 40s' and is still used for communications from the National Committee.

Getting Social

The next function was a social day on March, 30th at Bonnie Doon on Lake Eildon with instructors to teach water skying. Your scribe holds the record for underwater skiing as he forgot to let go of the rope after falling off.

Issue 3 of the Roaring 40s included announcements about a Cinema Night at Dandenong for \$2.60 a head, Mornington Apex 500th Dinner Meeting, a special Dinner at Nunawading Apex to farewell Geoff and Lynette Angus who were heading off to live in the UK and the first Apex 40 Dinner Dance.

The Dinner Dance was held at the Keysborough Hotel on June 7th with music by a little group from Mornington. with your scribe playing trombone.

The newsletter also contained details of Apex Metropolitan Region Luncheon Meetings in Melbourne with an invitation for Apex 40 members to attend. Sadly there are no Apex Clubs in the Metropolitan Region any more.

The first branches were formed in Maryborough, Qld and Devonport, Tas.

There was continued growth after this with the first 'Rort' being held in Ballarat. The 2016 Geelong gathering celebrates the 40th Rort.

No doubt there are members who can add to this brief record of the foundation of Apex 40.

