

ROARING 40's

March 2001



FOR CONTINUING FELLOWSHIP

Apex 40 is the recognised body of
Affiliated Past Apexians' Groups

NATIONAL PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It seems such a short time ago that I was Elected National President of this great organisation and now, after two years, I am writing my last report as President.

I must say that the friendships that are made in Apex and the bonding that fellowship endures is lifelong and that is shown by the number of Apex 40 members (ex Apexians) who attend each National Rort. From a national perspective, it is concerning that there do not appear to be many younger Apexians who are returning from Apex and joining Apex 40. This problem should continue to be addressed by each club and maybe an annual Apex - Apex 40 meeting should be held so that the younger Apexians can get to know us 'old fogies' and see the same fun and fellowship continues in Apex 40.

At the time of writing my report, we have 117 registrations for the Rort at Halls Gap and this includes 21 Canadians who will be touring the East Coast prior. This is a great number but there is still plenty

of accommodation available so those of you who haven't registered, please get your registration forms in as soon as possible to assist with the catering.

As this is my final report, I would like to thank Secretary/Treasurer Ray Despot for his impeccable attention to detail and the hard work he has put in on your behalf over the last two years.

Also I would like to place on record my thank you to National Extension Chairman Garth Witchurch and International Relations Chairman Brian Roach.

My thanks also to the 'Two Alans' (Alan Kinder and Alan Padgham) for the editing of the Roaring 40's which keeps all Apex 40 members in touch with what is happening around the country.

I would also like to thank the clubs who forwarded dinner notices to me during the last two years and it is interesting to see what form your dinner/meetings take.

Finally, I would like to thank all Apex 40 members for the opportunity of serving as your President and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the Rort.

Both Marg and I have enjoyed the last two years immensely and we look forward to the fellowship that will prevail during the well organised Halls Gap Rort.

I would also like to wish the incoming Executive an enjoyable term and offer any support they may require.

David Cameron
National President

NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER'S REPORT

Thanks go to the Apex 40 group Secretaries or contacts who have sent in their affiliations and fees for the 2001 year.

Unfortunately, out of the 60 groups only 26 are currently financial at the time of writing.

Overdue notices have been sent to the unfinancial groups.

We also have six "members at large" who are financial.

Our finances are in reasonable shape, thanks mainly to the clubs who conduct our Rorts, donating profits to the National Body. Thank you Port Lincoln, Bendigo and Moree.

Three copies of the Roaring 40's are sent to the last known address of all

listed clubs, whether financial or not.

Our newsletter is a great source of information on "Rorts" and other Apex 40 tours and happenings.

It appears that a large number of Apex 40 members never sight a copy of our newsletter, because their club officials do not consider it worthy of being copied and distributed.

Please make sure your members have the opportunity to read the "Roaring 40's".

I have enjoyed my term as Secretary/Treasurer and must thank Chairman David Cameron and the other National Board members for their assistance and support.

Ray Despot

National Secretary/Treasurer

NEW ZEALAND TOUR

All Clubs will have received information about the tour and the application forms.

The tour departs 20th May and returns 9th June. There will be a mixture of 'home hosting' and motel accommodation throughout the tour which includes both islands with visits to Christchurch, Timaru, Dunedin, Te Anau and Milford Sound, Franz Josef, Nelson, Wellington, Napier, Rotorua, Auckland, Cape Reinga and the Bay of Islands.

The cost of \$2649 per person (with some supplements, depending on where you join the tour) includes air fares, all accommodation, coach travel, Wellington 41ers Convention Rego and "heaps of other stuff". Also available is a 'land content only' cost of \$ 2099 for those who may wish to use their frequent flyer points to cover the air fare.

At the time of going to press there are eight spare seats available, so if you are interested in grabbing one of the last remaining places or finding out more details about the tour, please contact tour organiser Mark Tramby, Moree Apex 40, at M & G Travel on 02 6752 3055 or e-mail mark@mgtravel.com.au or you can check out Mark's web site at <http://www.mgtravel.com.au>

PORTLAND/HEYWOOD 2001 RORT 6TH - 9TH APRIL, 2001

Rob (Wombat) Walter: (03) 5527 0404, Mobile: 0428 525 508

e-mail: rw09@telstra.com

Peter Miller: A/H (03) 5523 1220, B/H (03) 5522 0200, Fax: (03) 5523 5531

Rort Website address: <http://www.users.bigpond.com/rw09>

Lots of registrations have arrived at this early stage but, with only a few weeks to go, it will help if you intend to register to do it straight away as we have to finalise motel room bookings by the end of February.

117 registrations are in for the 'early bird' draw, which is great to see. Total registration to date is 163, which includes 21 Canadian visitors and our local Heywood/ Portland members.

Our evening and day entertainment committee tells me there will be some great shows and many stories to tell. The registration committee, headed by Meg Hayden, is busy and about to send out replies to all those who have registered and to allot rooms in the motels for everybody.

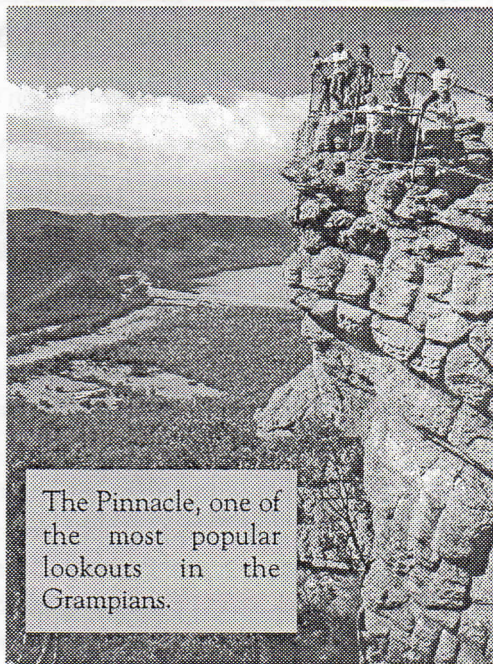
The pre-Rort tour is filling up quickly with 56 so far and only 10 seats left to fill the bus. A coach, with our Canadian visitors on board, will be leaving Melbourne on the Tuesday morning to meet up at Port Fairy with the other coach, which will leave from Halls Gap, before continuing together on the rest of the tour. There will be 21 Canadians on the coach from Melbourne and another ten Apex 40 members who are going on the tour have already booked seats on that coach. There will be room on the coach for some others who are going on the tour, on a first-in basis. The coach will be returning to Melbourne on Monday 9th April, after the Rort, and the cost

for up and back will be around \$50, or less depending on the number on board. If you wish to take advantage of this means of transport from Melbourne, please give me a call as soon as possible on 0418 525 508.

Don't forget to check out the Rort web site where you can check out the accommodation we will be using and the many attractions in the area. You can even print out and fill in a registration form. Address of the site is: <http://www.users.bigpond.com/rw09>

Looking forward to seeing you all in The Gap for a chat in April,

Wombat (Rob Walter)



The Pinnacle, one of the most popular lookouts in the Grampians.

VALE: IAN BANKS

Redlands President, Margaret Cameron, paid the following tribute to Ian Banks in the Club's latest dinner notice.

"Sadly, on the 20th December, Ian Banks ('Banksie' to those who have known him for ages) lost his battle with cancer. He put up the good fight for two years and his determination to enjoy life in spite of his adversities earned the respect of everyone. Everyone who knew Ian either through Apex or Apex 40 (especially those of us who travelled to the Rorts with Ian and Jan) have many fond memories of Ian's love of life and willingness to assist anybody in any situation. I personally have never heard anything but good about Ian and my own knowledge of Ian is of a person who thought of everybody before himself. Our thoughts and prayers are with Jan, Susan, Kym and families, and we look forward to seeing Jan at our future Apex 40 meetings."



The following also appeared in the same dinner notice.

"Sadly Ian Banks has attended his last Apex 40 dinner. As Margaret reported, Ian lost his battle with cancer before Christmas and we have lost yet another early stalwart of the Redlands Apex Club."

Ian was in Redlands Club from the very beginning until he grew 'too old' to be an Apexian and retired in 1977. Many activities saw Ian there with his trusty movie camera recording the club goings on which, with time, have become an important historical, some would say hysterical, record. Ian's ability to catch these famous moments on film led to him becoming the legendary Cecil B. de Banks. Just about every club and committee in the Redlands Shire has seen Ian taking some sort of role in its function."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

5 December 2000

Dear Editor,

After reading the letter to you from Ron & Meryl Clarke and Kevin & Shirley Harvey (last edition) I thought I should respond to some of the issues, namely the fact that all clubs were not advised and if the tour should in fact be sanctioned.

Firstly, and I do wish to say that the blame for this lies entirely with me, an all club mailing, as requested by Kevin Huxham, on the New Zealand Tour in May was not undertaken. Kevin provided me with a list of past passengers and interested Apex 40 members and asked me to do a mailing to them and all the clubs but, unfortunately, the clubs were missed by our office in the rush to get things out on the tour.

I must heartily agree with Ron, Meryl, Kevin & Shirley that, if anything goes out under the name "Apex 40 Australia", it should go to all clubs, and since this letter, and the issue of the November-December Roaring Forties magazine, I am pleased to say that this has been rectified with a letter to all clubs going out before Christmas.

At the time of writing there were still 8 spare seats on the tour so I feel no one will be greatly disadvantaged by finding out later, rather than sooner, about the tour but, none the less, I must take the criticism for not doing this at the time of all the other information going out. Once again, please accept my humble apologies for this oversight.

Secondly, the issue of whether the tour, or future tours, should or should not be sanctioned is not for me to debate or take an opinion. Kevin asked me to put the tour together for him and to promote it (which I did) and so I guess this is for the next AGM to discuss and work out a policy for future trips which, hopefully, I will be involved in as the organisation of this one has been a most enjoyable experience,

Best wishes to all, hope to see you in the Grampians.

Mark Tramby - Manager M&G Travel, Apex 40 Member Moree Club.

January 21, 2001

Dear Sir,

I believe I should respond to the letter and the editor's response, in the last issue of our magazine in reference to National Rorts and overseas tours. I was chairman of the Alstonville committee to form Apex 40 within our town in 1986 whilst still an active member of Apex, then chairman of the Rort Committee that hosted the Rort in Alstonville in 1987, at the request of the National President of Apex 40.

I was asked to take over the reins of National Extension Chairman in 1988, National President in 1989-91 and have been on the Apex 40 Co-Ordinating Committee every year since, until around 1999. At that time I donated the supply house of stick pins and banner supplies which I had run since it's inception on behalf of Alstonville club and the National Co-Ordinating Committee, back to Apex 40 and did not seek

re-election because our future plans were uncertain.

Attendance at Rorts or participation in overseas tours must surely be the choice of the individual member. We did not attend the Bendigo Rort as we were winding down out of our business of 21 years, we had attended the Apex Conference and a previous Rort, had done most of the tourist attractions, and were intending to call to Bendigo later in the year, actually attending Bendigo Apex 40 Christmas Party.

The first tour overseas after our Rort in 1990 to KL, was to South Africa in 1993 and the departure point was from the Rort in Perth, three days after the completion of the Rort. All participants were at the Rort. The tour was organised over a period of three to four years, well publicised and acknowledged by the Co-Ordinating Committee, of which I was a member.

The second tour to Canada/Alaska, which took place in August 1999, was publicised in the Roaring Forties from as early as July 1996 issue, three years in advance of the trip, and the Bendigo Rort. Again the National Co-Ordinating Committee was well aware of the proposed tour and wrote about it in their respective columns in the Roaring Forties.

Expressions of interest were called for participants to Canada/Alaska at the Port Lincoln Rort in May 1998 and 105 people registered. Four of the couples were from Bendigo, and subsequently they received information on the New Zealand Tour to take place this year, along with the other 101 names. The all club mailing failed to go out at the same time, as the co-organiser was awaiting an updated all-club mailing list. It did go out, but the 105 people that registered received their information on the NZ tour earlier. One would hope that they shared this with their club members.

You will remember the lack of attendance at KL for the second Rort in that city in 1995. Sometimes people, given the opportunity to travel to a different location, will choose that, rather than return to a place they have previously visited. One must also acknowledge that not everyone has the surplus funds to travel overseas, for a Rort or tour, so transferring the Rort offshore, will not boost attendance.

The New Zealand tour has been on the drawing board for some 12 years and is finally to come to fruition May/June this year. The tour has been limited to 40 participants primarily because the group of 52 who enjoyed Canada was a large group, and a big ask for home hosting on the receiving country. At the time of writing, there are six places left on this tour, 34 positions having been taken.

The object of overseas tours is to share and enjoy the wonderful international friendship and fellowship that is generated by them. The home hosting component gets you inside like-minded members' homes so you experience their lifestyle, but motel accommodation is also interspersed to enable rest and free nights, if desired. The tours are approximately 50 - 65% of the cost of a normal commercial tour and are non-profit.

Apex 40 is a wonderful organisation, free from the rules and regulations that bound us in Apex, where rule introduction and changes, took up the majority of the business

session. I am not sure that we need all that in Apex 40, but to me something that is publicised on numerous occasions in our national communication medium known as the Roaring Forties, in both the International Relations column, and in reports from the current Co-ordinating Committee, I would have felt that was acknowledgement, authorisation, approval and consent.

This year with the Grampians Rort in Victoria, we will have the added pleasure of 21 Canadian members from K-40, a bonus to help swell the numbers, along with some visitors from New Zealand 41 giving our organisation a truly international flavour.

On with the Rort, fun, friendship, fellowship, and an occasional tour!

Yours faithfully

Kevin & Liz Huxham, Apex 40 Club of Alstonville

- A R O U N D T H E B R A N C H E S -

ALSTONVILLE: New President is Narelle Consalvo, with Phil as 2 IC; Allan and Lucky Howard are Secretary and Treasurer.

Between Christmas and New Year the club held an Olympics night which provided a great social/mixing night for all. Sports covered included table tennis, hookey, draughts, carpet bowls, golf, computer game, fishing and card games. Kay Huett and Ian Carrington tied as winners, with Kay victorious after the toss of a coin.

February meeting will be at the Evans Head Bowling Club for a Chinese lunch.

BENDIGO: For their Christmas meeting, Bendigo members shared a coach with the local Kiwanis Club to travel to Melbourne for a visit to Crown Casino and an 'all you can eat' Christmas Buffet lunch.

FORBES: Venue for Forbes Christmas Do was the garden at Heather and Peter Moore's for a BBQ dinner.

GEELONG: Geelong members and their ladies joined with Grovedale

Apex for their Christmas function at the Shell Club. It was a milestone meeting; the Club's 50th.

John Nankervis was organising a past-Apexians lunch as part of the 2001 Apex State Convention in February, with Geelong AFL legend Bill Brownless as guest speaker.

THE GREAT EIGHT: December's "Come as You're Caught" night saw Bruce and Barbara Humphries and Col Kingham forced to turn up in their PJ's.

January get together was an afternoon/evening picnic at King Edward Park in Newcastle and in February members will visit Maitland Town Hall as guests of member and Councillor Graham Dark.

Recent dinner notices have included 'Couples Profiles' to enable members to get to know a little more about their fellow members.

LAUNCESTON: "The members of Launceston Apex 40 met at the bushland home of Mary and Clive Tomkins for a Christmas luncheon. Mary sup-

plied a very tasty meal and all over-indulged. Members wandered around the colourful garden and checked out the ducks and trout in the pond. Some stayed overnight when a late snack and cards were the go. Mary and Clive were newcomers to the game and, as usually happens, won both games.

Some of the men participated in a little bit of fun. One lady, who shall remain anonymous, had to select the legs of her husband, but Tara the dog checked out all the men first. The photo shows members enjoying the Christmas celebrations.

We have already enjoyed a BBQ in January and another is planned in Bridport next month.

See you at the Rort." Jan Storay

MELBOURNE – GIPPSLAND:

Christmas dinner was again held at the Dandenong TAFE College where the food was cooked and tables waited on by the students, as part of their courses in cooking and hospitality. Again, it was a delightful meal and an enjoyable evening with Christmas gifts swapped.

February dinner is at a venue not tried before, the bistro at Clayton Bowls Club, and the following meeting will be a picnic at Healesville in April, after the Grampians Rort and the visit by Canadians who will be home hosted by members while in Melbourne. There will be the usual strong Melbourne-Gippsland contingent at the Rort and some members will be going on the pre-Port tour.



Launceston members enjoying the Christmas celebrations

Again this year, Sam McInnes hosted the annual 'Kinder Klassic' golf event at Box Hill Golf Club. The winner was John Kehoe, with Brian Roach second and Neil Hookey third on a count-back from Max Cheney (Melb. Norwesters). Col Speirs bobbed up (or was that down?) for the NAGA award.

MOREE: After a 'very suspicious' election at the Club's AGM in November, Ann Taylor was elected as Queen Bee, or President if you prefer, in time to organise the Christmas Party at the Spa Village Motel.

February dinner will be at the Moree Golf Club's 19th Hole Restaurant and in March there will be a 'wearing of the green' on St. Patrick's Day.

REDLANDS: Christmas dinner at the Pacific Resort Motel was a night of great fellowship and fun.

Club members will be hosting the Canadian visitors in late March during their tour down the east coast on the way to Halls Gap for the Rort.

March meeting will be a dinner at the Redlands Sporting Club in company with Wynnum-Manly club and members can look forward to the usual good night of fellowship when the two clubs get together to renew friendships.

SUNRAYSIA: Members gathered for their Christmas Party at Ken and Julie Primmer's home.

Next function will be in March at Bob and Glenys Mutton's for a BYO barbecue when members will get

organised for attendance at the Halls Gap Rort to promote the club's bid for the 2003 Rort.

(You've got my vote. I remember the 1982 Rort – Hell! Is it that long ago? Are the 'Workers Five Plus One' still playing? The best ever backing for the Rort Song. Ed.)

WYNNUM-MANLY: Christmas Party was once again held at the home of Ron and Melda Miller.

Bill Jessop and Denise Clements have been elected to continue in their roles of President and Secretary.

Geraldine and Bruce Garland will host a Champagne Breakfast at their home in February.

WYONG: The old red fat fella was expected to call in on the Club's Christmas dinner, Malaysian banquet style, at the Empire Bay Tavern. A hot night, so drinks were taken on the verandah.

January dinner will be a BYO picnic at The Entrance Memorial Park.

Members will be providing home hosting for the Canadians for two nights when they visit the Central Coast after travelling from Moree. Their visit will coincide with the Club's normal meeting night so there will be a good opportunity for a get-together.

The much travelled past National President Malcolm Clark has been working on contract in Biloela, Queensland and has extended his contract for another five months.

DINNER NOTICE HUMOUR

Alstonville:

The following story is reported by an independant witness as being absolutely true:

Margaret Richardson visited a local coffee shop where she purchased a Mars Bar. She decided to have a cup of coffee also but noticed that all the tables were occupied. She asked this nice young man if she could share his table and, on being seated, was horrified when he reached over, unwrapped the Mars Bar and took a large bite. We all know that Margaret is quick to retaliate so, what did she do? She leaned over and took a bite out of the cake that he was eating. The young man abruptly departed and Margaret, feeling a little smug, finished her coffee. When she opened her bag to pay the cashier, her smugness disappeared when she discovered her unwrapped Mars Bar!

On his recent golfing trip to Zimbabwe, the redoubtable Ian Causley (?) was required to take a 'Great White Hunter' along with him while he played the course. Ian was not greatly impressed with this extra expense until he played the first hole and, after a wayward shot into deep rough, he was attacked by a lion. The GWH came to his rescue and shot the lion. Playing down the second he was confronted by a fearsome alligator. The GWH came to his rescue again and shot the alligator. The third was a short par 3 hole which our powerful hero carried, only to land in the long grass where he was attacked by a five-

metre python. He called to the GWH for help but no help came. Finally, by using his concealed Duncan Walker pocket knife, he escaped and confronted the Great White Hunter, "Why didn't you shoot when I called for help?"

The Great White Hunter was quite put out and replied, "You don't get a shot on that hole!"

Geelong:

A man walks into a drug store with his eight-year-old son. They happen to walk by the condom display and the boy asks, "What are these, Dad?"

To which the man matter-of-factly replies, "They are called condoms, son. Men use them for safe sex."

"Oh, I see" replied the boy pensively. "I've heard about that in health class at school." He looks over the display and picks up a packet of three and asks, "Why are there three in this packet, Dad?" Dad replies, "They're for high school boys. One for Friday, one for Saturday, and one for Sunday."

"Cool!" says the boy. He notices a 6-pack and asks, "Then who are these for?" "Those are for college men," his Dad answers, "Two for Friday, two for Saturday, and two for Sunday."

"Wow!" exclaimed the boy. "Then who uses THESE?" he asks, picking up a 12-pack.

With a sigh Dad replied, "Those are for married men. One for January, one for February, one for March"

The Great Eight:

During a flight on a small aeroplane, the flight attendant asked a passenger if he would like to have dinner. "What are my choices?" the passenger asked. "Yes or no!" replied the flight attendant.

A budget is a formula for determining that you need to ask your boss for a raise.

All the animals, excepting man, know that the principal business of life is to enjoy it.

The biggest disease today is not leprosy or tuberculosis but, rather, the feeling of being unwanted.

Time management tip. When you go into a restaurant, always ask for a table near a waiter.

Melbourne-Gippsland:

A Couple of Questions for you

Question 1: If you knew a woman who was pregnant, who had 8 kids already, three who were deaf, two who were blind, one mentally retarded, and she had syphilis – would you recommend an abortion?

Question 2: It is time to elect the next world leader and your vote counts. Here are the facts about three leading candidates:

Candidate A: Associates with crooked politicians and consults with astrol-ogists. He's had two mistresses. He also chain smokes and drinks 8 to 10 martinis a day.

Candidate B: He was kicked out of office twice, sleeps until noon, used opium in college, and drinks a quart of whisky every evening.

Candidate C: He is a decorated war hero, he's a vegetarian, doesn't smoke, drinks an occasional beer and hasn't had any extramarital affairs.

Which of these candidates would you choose?

Decide first before reading on.

Answer to question 1: If you said yes, you just killed Beethoven.

Answer to question 2: 'Candidate A' is Franklin D Roosevelt, 'Candidate B' is Winston Churchill, 'Candidate C' is Adolf Hitler.

Some Completely Useless Information:

- Pearls melt in vinegar.
- 111,111,111 multiplied by itself = 12,345,678,987,654,321
- Snails can sleep for three years without eating
- The fingerprints of Koalas are virtually indistinguishable from those of humans, so much so that they could be confused at a crime scene.

Redlands:

How history has changed – 50 years ago, hundreds of white men chasing a black man across a field were known as the Ku Klux Klan. Today it is known as the PGA Tour.

A couple of anagrams:

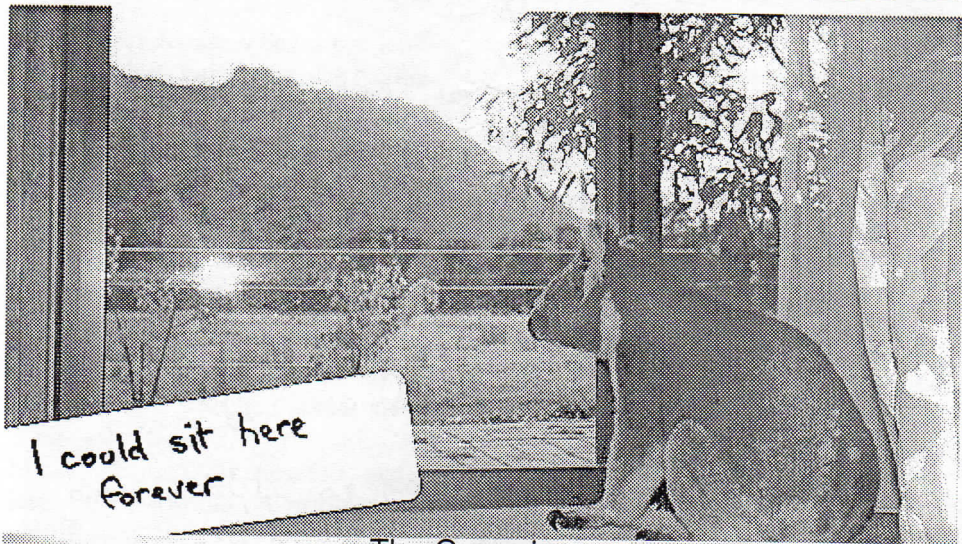
Mother-in-law - Woman Hitler.

The Morse Code – Here come dots.

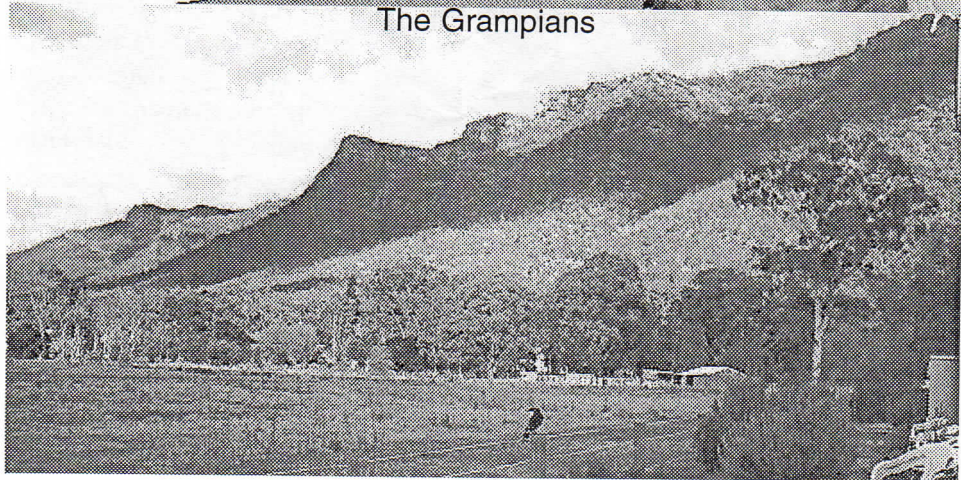
A Toast:

The Frenchman drinks his native wine,
The German his lager beer.

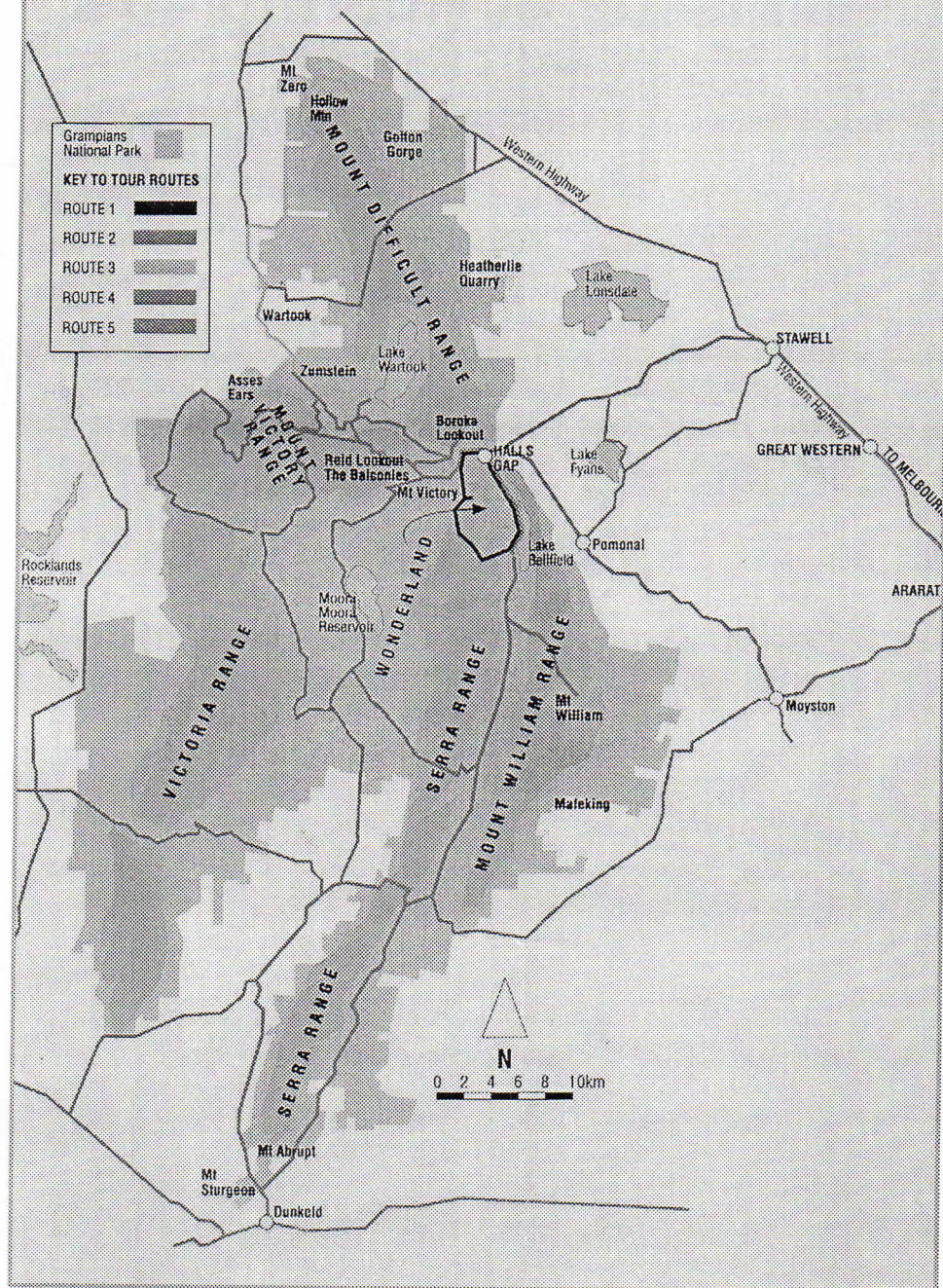
FOOTRORT FLATS



The Grampians



The Grampians and Halls Gap area



Get your News in – in the Next Issue of Roaring 40's

Branches are invited and urged to forward news & photos of branch activities and other items of interest for publication in the next issue of "Roaring 40's"

Let's have photographs and news of branch functions so we can see what you look like, and what you get up to

Please forward material to:

Alan Kinder,
34 Shafer Road,
Blackburn, Vic. 3130
(03) 9898 5124

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS
31 May, 2001

- FOR SALE - APEX 40 GEAR

THESE ITEMS ARE NOW AVAILABLE

NAME BADGES – Cost: \$7.00

Available from –

Alan Kinder (Nola)
34 Shafer Road,
Blackburn North, Vic. 3130
Phone (03) 9898 5124

STICK PINS – Cost: \$3.50

APEX 40 BANNERS – (P.O.A.)

Available from –

Brian Roach
15 Wilpena Place
Vermont South, 3133
Phone: (03) 9802 1063

CAR STICKERS – Cost: \$2.00

Available from –

Glenn Rossiter (Betty)
10 Teewah Street
Caloundra, Qld, 4551
Phone (07) 54913823

- Costs quoted include postage,
- Please forward cheque with order.
- Cheques to be made payable to supplier (as listed).
- Please ensure correct spelling for name badges.

APEX 40 CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

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ATTENTION BRANCH SECRETARIES!

We are only able to send a few copies of "Roaring 40's" to each Club, so please ensure that you reproduce extra copies for distribution to your members.