

ROARING 40's

July 2005

Post Tassie Rort Issue



FOR CONTINUING FELLOWSHIP

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Affiliated Past Apexians Groups
www.apex40.org

NEW NATIONAL PRESIDENT S REPORT



Another Rort is over, and reports to hand claim the best ever to be held. Or so Rob Beveridge and Kay Dixon would have us believe. It's pleasing to note that neither Rob nor Kay demonstrates any evidence of bias. On the other hand, over 160 Rortee's who attended can!

Once again the social interaction enjoyed by all was everything that in Apex 40 have come to expect. Beginning with the Friday evening "Welcome Function" at the race-course, and continuing through to the traditional "Farewell Breakfast" in the early mists on the upper reach of the Mersey River.

An interesting highlight of the weekend was the talk given by Ms. Gail Sagers, Immediate Past President for Apex Tasmania. I'm sure her concern for the future of Apex is shared by all of us. Her plea in highlighting the difficulties of attracting new membership to Apex is not news to us. I urge all Apex 40 members to assist our local Apex clubs in their desire to attract new people. Thank you Gail for your time, and may we wish you all the best in your new role with Apex National.

A special mention must go to the "boys" (Wombat, Brian Roach, etc.) and their Ernest endeavour to introduce culture into our dreary, party filled lives. Well done fellas.

As is normal following the end of each Rort, we start looking forward to the next one. I can assure you that Gary Rumble, Keith Miller and their team at Nepean Valley are well advanced with the plans for what looks to be another Rort Buster. Just visit the Apex 40 web site and start making plans for 2006 in the Penrith-Windsor district.

Finally, the Huxham party is now well into their tour of the U.K. Enjoy your trip folks, and come back safe and sound.

Yours in Apex 40,

Bob McKernon, National President

NEW NATIONAL SECRETARY/TREASURER S PERSPECTIVE

My husband, Charlie, and I set off for Devonport from Brisbane mid afternoon on Thursday 14th April, looking forward to another fabulous Rort, especially after the fantastic time on Norfolk in 2004. The following day, the registration day for the Rort, was my 58th birthday, and I was looking forward to celebrating that day with friends made through Apex and Apex 40. I was not disappointed!

We thoroughly enjoyed the bus trip to Cradle Mountain, despite the wait for buses at each end of the trip. And those apples were sooo delicious! Saturday finished perfectly with the dinner at the Axeman's Hall of Fame with David Foster.



The rail trip to Penguin was loads of fun and brought back memories of catching the train to and from high school in my teens. We often had a steam locomotive pulling the train, and I well remember going over the foot-bridge just above the train when a burst of steam issued from the stack – my stockings (grey) and blouse (blue) were covered in tiny spatters of greasy soot. Mother was not amused! Those stains never did come out.

Lunch in the park was delicious, and then to the AGM. Just before the meeting began, Bob McKernon told me he was to be nominated for President and asked me to go for Secretary/Treasurer. After a little thought, I agreed, and the rest as they say is history. I'm still a little bewildered by the speed with which it all happened, but I will do the best I can for all the members of our national organization. It helps a great deal when the President and I get on well together, well supported by both our spouses.

I'm looking forward to the next two years as an opportunity to get to know each of you a little better and put faces to names. Look forward to seeing you all again in Penrith.

Marcie Irvin, National Secretary/Treasurer

A MESSAGE FROM THE IMMEDIATE-PAST PRESIDENT

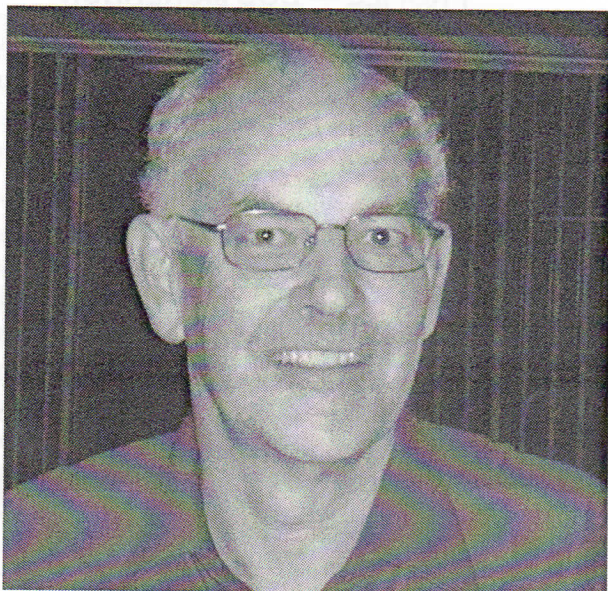
Our recently elected National President, Bob McKernon, has advised that he felt concerned for his position, as well as that of our organization's, when reading the constitution on returning home from the Rort. He was concerned that, as he had not been a member of Apex, he was not strictly eligible to be a member or hold office in Apex 40. Bob was nominated and elected at our last AGM in good faith on the basis of his good standing as a member of Redlands Apex 40 Club, where he has been accepted as a member for many years and has regularly attended the last eight Rorts. Although not having been a member of Apex before being invited to join Redlands Club, he had been a member of other recognised service clubs, Lions International and Kiwanis, and had been President of his Kiwanis Club.

As a consequence, the matter has been discussed with recent past National Presidents Leon Squires and David Cameron, and with founding members and past National Presidents Neil Hookey and Alan Kinder. We are all of the opinion that Bob McKernon is in all other respects a most suitable person to hold the position of National President and we feel that the existing executive should continue until the next AGM, when appropriate action can be taken to rectify the situation. It is possible that a motion could be put to the members to amend the Membership section of the Constitution, or some other means found to resolve the present situation. In the meantime, we ask all members to give their support to Bob, Marcie Irvin and Rob Noble in their roles on the National Executive.

Arising from these discussions, there has also been a suggestion that a Vice-President should be elected in future. The suggestion is for a four-year cycle for our National President, i.e. one year as Vice-President, two years as National President, then one year as Immediate Past President. This would enable the incoming President to become more aware of his responsibilities prior to taking office and would provide an opportunity for the outgoing President to assist and advise the new President during his first year in office. It is expected that a motion to this effect will also be put forward at the next AGM.

Max Cheney, Immediate Past National President

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS & APEX LIAISON REPORT



Rob Noble –
*Newly appointed
International
Relations & Apex
Liaison Officer*

Congratulations to the Devonport Club for the well organised Rort. I am sure all the Rorters will have many memories and lots of photos to remind them of the Apple Isle.

Many thanks to Brian Roach for his contribution to International Relations over many years.

Some interest from members of RT41 in New Zealand in attending the Nepean Valley Rort was expressed and we will be happy to welcome them.

Kevin Huxham's tour commenced on 14th June to the British Isles and we wish Kevin and Liz and all the participants a very happy holiday.

Apex's 75th Anniversary will be here soon, on 10th March 2006, and I am sure everyone has a lot of fond memories of the time they had in Apex. I think it is very fitting that we get behind the young clubs and support them in their celebrations.

Please forward to me any information on the formation of any new or prospective Apex 40 clubs, so information can be passed on to them.

Keeping in touch!

Rob Noble, International Relations and Apex Liaison Officer.

Email: robnoble@bigpond.net.au

PROFILE — BOB MCKERNON

Most regular Rort attendees will already know that I was born in New Zealand, when I was very young. On the other hand I am sure you will be pleased to know that Mary, my wife, was born in Newcastle, NSW. Mary and I met in Wellington, NZ in 1963 and were married in Newcastle in 1965. We will be celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary this year.

My service club career began with Brisbane City Lions in 1970, shortly after I was transferred to Brisbane as State Manager for a Pharmaceutical Company. Mary and I enjoyed many years of wonderful comradeship and fulfilling service work in our community. The purchase of a small rural property 40kms south of Brisbane in the late 70s put an end to this association, but resulted in more service work through our local country school and the community it served. We moved back to civilization in the mid 80's, at which time I was invited to join the Brisbane Kiwanis Club, serving on various committees and a term as the Club President.

Mary and I first became involved with Apex 40 through the Redlands Club and our first Rort at Port Lincoln. Who will ever forget our esteemed member from Heywood and his masterful rendition of "Burning Ring of Fire". A wonderful introduction to 'rorting' and the outstanding talents of so many Rorters. So much so, that we have not missed a Rort since. All complimented by the unforgettable experience of being closely involved in organizing the Redlands Rort.

Since our retirement, we have undertaken a 'Sea Change' and moved to Redcliffe peninsula, approximately 40km north of Brisbane. We have four grown-up children, two boys and two girls, who have blessed us with three lovely grandchildren, aged 9, 6 and 6 months. Our current hobbies include community service (Mary at the Redcliffe Museum, and myself at the local Animal Refuge), walking, caravanning, Apex 40, Rorting, and of course the ankle biters. The AFL purists will, of course, be alarmed to learn that I am a committed Rugby Union fan and an ex-referee.

Finally, Mary and I look forward to visiting as many Apex 40 Clubs as possible during my term as National President, while out and about in our caravan.

PROFILE — MARCIE IRVIN

I was born Marcella Lesley Barnes on 15 April 1947, the first of six children of Cyril and Marjorie Barnes of Wilston, a suburb of Brisbane, where my mother still lives.

I attended Wilston State Primary School until Year 8, and then Mitchelton State High School for two years of secondary education. I commenced work in January 1963 for a group of printing companies at Normanby in Brisbane, the only girl in

a work staff of twenty. Needless to say I felt very outnumbered and, at times, a little traumatized by my working conditions. After eight months I left and began work closer to home for Wilston Builders Supplies, a well established hardware business. I was promoted to Invoicing Clerk after about a year, then to Accounting Machinist, the position I held until marrying Charlie in 1968.

I had met Charlie in July 1967 at Cloudland Ballroom, when my girlfriend and I decided to attend the regular Saturday night dance there. At the time I was waiting to begin training as an Airline Stewardess, but love got in the way and it took me another 21 years to even get aboard an aircraft! Charlie and I announced our engagement on 13 March 1968, and were married on 5 October the same year. Our first child, David, was born in December 1969, followed fifteen months later by Steven. Barrie was born in 1973, and our only daughter Michelle in 1976. All but Barrie are now married and we have four grandchildren with another due to arrive in June. Barrie has taken over management of the family farm, growing chickens for a company owned by the Benfer family of Mount Cotton. Albert Benfer and his wife Allison are also members of Redlands Apex 40.

Charlie has lived his entire life at Mount Cotton and the family farm is the last remaining land of the original family holding taken up in 1866 when Hans Heinrich Heinemann, Charlie's great-grandfather, emigrated from Germany and settled his family at Mount Cotton. The area has a proud German history and a very caring community attitude, something I found very comforting coming from the 'Big Smoke' to a small rural community. We attend St Paul's Lutheran Church at Mount Cotton and are both active members. Charlie plays the organ for service on alternate Sundays, while I read the Lessons. Between us, we have held the Treasurer's position for 32 years. I also hold the positions of Elder, Lay Reader, and Parish Councillor.

I enjoy playing golf (a pastime I took up when I became a 'golf widow' some 17 years ago), singing, craft, especially patchwork quilting, crochet and sewing. I have been taking vocal lessons for about 16 months and am to sing in my first Eisteddfod in August. I sing in the Church Choir, something that was a part of my life at St Alban's Church of England where I went to Church before my marriage. I had sung in school choirs for as far back as I can remember. I enjoy listening to music, especially the lighter classics and musical numbers from the shows. I look forward to going to our Apex 40 meetings and catching up with all the friends we have made there over the years.

I hope, over the coming two years, to get to know a lot more of my fellow Apex 40 members and look forward to an interesting time as National Secretary-Treasurer.

DEVONPORT RORT REPORT

One hundred and fifty five Rorters swung into action as usual at the Friday night Welcome Social, which was held at 'Cheers' at the Devonport showgrounds. Food was plentiful, as were the drinks, and fellowship was in full swing. We even had a view of Devonport harbour in the Mersey River and saw the Spirit of Tasmania, which had brought many of the Rorters to Devonport, depart on its overnight return voyage to Melbourne. Devonport members, who had worked hard to organise the weekend's festivities, were resplendent in their navy and gold Rort shirts.

On Saturday morning, after much swapping of buses, from local buses to tourist coaches, we headed off for Cradle Mountain National Park. Those who were on the bus with 'the Mayor of Wilmot', Devonport member David Baker, were entertained and educated by David along the way, especially as we passed through Wilmot, where he had grown up, with its unique array of unusual mail boxes. The weather was kind to us and we saw Cradle Mountain, and Lake Dove at its foot, bathed in glorious sunshine, which doesn't happen too often. We had guides to show us around the National Park, including a visit to the original Waldheim Chalet built by Gustav Weindorfer, who had opened up the Cradle Mountain area to tourists, and a walk through the nearby moss covered rain forest of King Billy pines, celery-top pines and myrtles. Lunch was at the ultra-modern Doherty's Wilderness Lodge, where there is an interesting photographic gallery. On the return journey to Devonport we stopped off at Sheffield, with its many murals on the walls of buildings throughout the town.

Saturday night's dinner dance was at the Axeman's Hall of Fame where we were entertained before dinner by World Champion axeman David Foster, a giant of a man with a sense of humour to match. Music for the dance was provided by a swinging band, 'Route 66', which included a couple of ex-Apexians. Bush gear was the order of dress for the night and prizes for the best dressed went to Barry Leavett-Brown (Nepean Valley) and the lady dressed as 'Mammy Yokum'. (*My apologies for not having a name for this lady; she was too well disguised – please let me know who she was.* E)

Chookie Rossiter's (Caloundra) hat was worthy of mention, as were the 'scraggs' outfits of Shane and Susan Doyle (Melb. Norwesters). And Mike and Sandra Dawson made a good Beverley Hillbillies couple, Jethro and Ellie May. A number of Rorters took on a surprisingly different appearance when Mike's wig did the rounds!

It would be impossible to describe the vast array of trophies and ribbons won by David Foster and his father and displayed in the trophy room – it is difficult to contemplate them competing in so many events, let alone winning so many.

Sunday saw us all on a steam train on the Don River Railway that took us right along the coast, all the way to Penguin. Many of us visited the Penguin market before our BBQ lunch, which was prepared and served by members of the local Rotary Club.

After lunch, National President Max Cheney conducted the Annual General Meeting. Garry Rumble invited us to attend next year's Rort to be hosted by Nepean Valley Apex 40 at and around Penrith, NSW.

Ross Pollock gave a run down on plans by Redlands Club to host the 2007 Rort in North Queensland in conjunction with the Mackay Apex Club.

The 'Penultimate' trophy for the best dinner notice was awarded to Maralyn Kastel of Nepean Valley Apex 40.

The Bill Cunliffe Memorial trophy for attendance was won by Perth Apex 40.

Nominations were called for the Apex 40 National Committee and the following were elected:

National President – Bob McKernon (Redlands)

National Secretary-Treasurer – Marcie Irvin (Redlands)

International Relations & Apex Liaison – Rob Noble (Alstonville)

Following the business session Alan Bach (Redlands), Alan Flaherty (Melb.-Gippsland), and Peter Miller (Portland) combined to conduct a fines session with many Rorters paying for their nefarious deeds.

Sunday night's function was held at the Devonport RSL with a buffet dinner followed by music, dancing and entertainment provided by those two gorgeous stars of the film 'Chicago' – 'Renée Zellweger' and 'Catherine Zeta-Jones'. Rort Chairman Rob Beveridge, Jock Littler, and the Mayor of Wilmot, alias David Baker, were coerced by those ladies to add to the entertainment. Further entertainment came with a hilarious performance of Banjo Paterson's 'The Man From Ironbark' with Rob (Wombat) Walter as the Man, Brian Roach as the barber, Brendon Ledwich as the constable, and Max Cheney, Peter Miller and Mike Dawson as "the gilded youths that sat along the barber's wall". Nepean Valley members performed a sketch that regaled us with the delights that await us at Penrith next year. The 'Bull Horn' trophy for the best sketch was awarded by popular vote to the men from Ironbark.

Members were invited to nominate candidates for the 'Wizzy' trophy and to outline their exploits – the popular vote went to Devonport member Kay Dixon.

A farewell breakfast was held on Monday morning at High Tide Waterfront Restaurant, on the picturesque banks of the Mersey River. After breakfast and rounds of 'goodbyes', some went off on the Post-Rort Tour, others headed off on individual tours of Tasmania, while others headed for home – everyone agreeing that the Devonport Rort was as good as they come, thanks to a great organising effort by Rob Beveridge, Kay Dixon, Peter Skirving, Heather Ellis and the members of Devonport Apex 40.

POST RORT TOUR

Following the Farewell Breakfast, the Post-Rort Tour got underway for 53 Rorters still enjoying "fellowship and fun in any weather", which remained fine for most of the four day tour. We had 46 in a coach and seven following on in a smaller bus; the idea was that there would be some shifting around between busses but, after the first day, the seven in the small bus decided they were happy as they were and remained together for the whole tour.

After leaving the north coast at Burnie, we headed into the mountainous south-west through forests of myrtle beech, sassafras, blackwood, leatherwood, and other species to Zeehan where we had time to look through the West Coast Pioneers' Memorial Museum which has mining and railway displays and one of the best mineral collections in Australia.

On to Strahan, located on magnificent Macquarie Harbour which is the second largest harbour in the southern hemisphere after Sydney Harbour. After lunch we boarded the historic diesel-hauled train to start the 35 kilometre trip to Queenstown, stopping first at Lower Landing for a stroll down to the King River and local honey tasting. Next stop was Dubbil Barril where we changed engines for the remainder of the trip. We now had a steam engine (driven by an attractive young lady, Caroline) to haul us along the extraordinary third-rail rack and pinion Abt system track, required to conquer the mountainous terrain. It was dark by the time we got to Queenstown, after a wonderful trip through one of the world's last pristine rainforest wilderness areas, so it was a late dinner after our buses got us back to Strahan.

Next morning we all boarded the 'Wanderer' for a cruise on Macquarie Harbour which took us out through the heads at Hell's Gate into the Southern Ocean. Back in the Harbour we enjoyed a buffet lunch as we cruised past Sarah Island, the one-time penal settlement, and on up the Gordon River as far as Heritage Landing where we could walk along the board-walk through the rainforest which thrives on four metres of rain a year. Back at Strahan we hopped onto our buses for the long trip to Hobart which meant another late dinner – but no-one complained since the dinner at the Corus Hotel was excellent.

Wednesday saw us heading down the Huon Valley to Geeveston where we visited the Forest and Heritage Centre, devoted to the forestry industry and including a gallery featuring an outstanding exhibition of woodcraft and a display of historical wood-working machinery. On to the Tahune State Forest and a walk along the 620 metre long 'Air Walk', at an average height of 20 metres above the forest floor and 48 metres down to the Huon River at the end of the 24 metres long cantilever section. We were told that the walk structure could withstand 180 kph winds (almost Cyclone Tracy speed) and that the cantilever section could hold 10 tonnes – 120 people or 12 elephants! The Air Walk takes you through a forest of many different varieties of

trees, including magnificent Stringybark trees up to 200 years old and 60 metres tall. Back to Hobart for a drive to the top of Mount Wellington with its commanding views over Hobart and the Derwent Valley. A few chose not to take this trip and went in the small bus to have a look at Salamander Place.

On Thursday, after a tour around Battery Point, we headed back to Devonport, stopping first at Richmond with its historic gaol, the first gaol built in Australia, and the historic convict built bridge. On to Ross for lunch at the local hall and a visit to the Tasmanian Wool Centre. After lunch we were told about the history of the town and enjoyed a stroll down the elm lined street to the Ross Bridge, also built by convict labour, with its intricate carvings in the sandstone of which it is built.

Back at Devonport, we joined most of the Devonport members and a few other Rorters still around, for a dinner at the Argosy Motel as a wind up to the week's activities and to say our final farewells to our Apex 40 friends.

NEPEAN VALLEY RORT COME & MIX IN 2006

Nepean Valley Apex 40 — 2006 Rort. Penrith, NSW — in Sydney's West

Where the Hell is Nepean Valley?

Many questions were asked at the 2005 RORT as to our exact location – Well, Sydney's best-kept secret is no more! Apex 40 Nepean Valley is located at Penrith – 54km west of Sydney.

WHAT'S ON?

The 2006 RORT will have a central theme – a Dimboola-style wedding event! So bring your best "glad-rags" to attend a country wedding!! You could be the bride's cousin, or the drunken uncle, or the eccentric grandparents – it doesn't matter! We just want you to get into the spirit and have some fun!!

APEX 40 NEPEAN VALLEY — RORT PROGRAM

Friday 5th — Monday 8th May, 2006

Friday – "Meet the Bride & Groom & Families"

Registration and welcome gathering. Light Supper provided. Venue to be confirmed but most likely to be at Panthers World of Entertainment.

Saturday – "The Pre-Nuptials"

Tour of the Penrith Whitewater Stadium and the International Rowing Centre (both Sydney 2000 Olympic Games sites).

This will be followed by a morning tea cruise on a paddle steamer down the Nepean River. The AGM will take place on this cruise.

After lunch, free time will be made available in the afternoon to do your own thing, e.g. shopping at the great Penrith Plaza shopping centre.

Saturday (pm) – "The Wedding Reception"

Dinner will be at a venue to be confirmed with a Country & Western band for entertainment and dancing.

Dress – your best Dimboola wedding gear! Prizes for the best dressed couple and singles.

Sunday – "The Morning After"

"Australiana" day, including lunch and entertainment at Gledswood Winery (near Narellan).

Sunday (pm) – "The Hangover Chaser"

Dinner at Penrith RSL Club with a Rockabilly/Rock & Roll Band to get you jumping. Be prepared to rock your socks off!

Monday – "Farewell the Rellies"

The traditional Apex 40 fellowship breakfast and farewells.

Post-Rort tour will commence after breakfast.

POST-RORT TOUR

Monday 8th — Thursday 11th May, 2006

The Post-Rort Tour is still in the developmental stage. At the time of going to press, however, we are negotiating with a bus company to provide day trips to selected destinations, returning to your accommodation at Penrith at night. Possible destinations include: Sydney Harbour, Blue Mountains & surrounds, Hunter Valley Gardens/Vineyards, Penrith Highlights or the Jenolan Caves.

We will advise further when details are confirmed.

Registration forms and further details of the Rort and Post-Rort Tour programs will be forwarded to all Clubs and will also be posted on the Apex 40 web-site.

Looking forward to seeing you at Penrith, so **Come and Mix in 2006!**

Keith Miller, President / Rort Secretary, Garry Rumble, Rort Chairman



VALE — MARGARET SAWYER

Apex 40, Wyong N.S.W.

(An edited version of the Eulogy delivered by Margaret's husband, Lynn, at her funeral at The Entrance following Margaret's sudden death on 6th March 2005.)

Margaret Anne Lord was born in Leichhardt, Sydney in 1942. She was educated by the nuns at Saint Scholastica's – Glebe, then attended Wagga Wagga Teachers College where her love affair with teaching began. Her first appoint-

ment was to a one-teacher school; it would probably be called a special school these days. Margaret never wanted to be in administration – she was quite happy in front of a class. Margaret spent some time teaching in England then returned to Sydney. About that time Lynn came ashore from 8 years at sea. Drawn to a rather attractive dark-eyed girl – they eventually married. Full-time teaching and looking after 4 young children (and Lynn) was no mean feat for Margaret !

Apex played a significant part in the Sawyer family for many years; Lynn and Margaret also belonged to Wyong Apex 40. Lynn attended the recent Rort in Tasmania and expresses his gratitude for the many cards and other expressions of support from Apex 40 members.

Margaret is survived by Lynn and children Gregory, Julia, Ruth and Robert, and two grandchildren.

VALE — JIM LILLEYMAN

Apex 40, Perth W.A.

The members of the Apex 40 club of Perth were very saddened to lose one of the Club's long time members, Jim Lilleyman, who passed away with cancer on 10th February. Jim was the inaugural President of the Apex Club of Morley and, since his retirement from Apex some 24 years ago, had enjoyed the social life of Apex 40. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Jill and we look forward to still enjoying her company as a member of Apex 40 Perth.

Stuart Arvidson – President, Apex 40 Club of Perth

VALE — MAURICE POLONI

Apex 40, Redlands Qld.

Redlands members are sad to record the passing of one of their friends and original Redlands Apex 40 members, Morrie Poloni. A number of Apex 40 members made it to Morrie's well attended funeral. Morrie went into hospital for heart surgery, suffered complications and never recovered. Morrie turned 71 on April 19th and passed away on April 23rd. For many years he farmed with his brother Gill at Wellington Point and later helped his son Gary in the stone mason business. He was a keen lawn bowler and had been a member of Cleveland Bowling Club for many, many years.

Morrie is survived by his mother, Assunta, wife Elaine and children Gary, Joan and Terry. Our sincere sympathy and thoughts go to Elaine and all of the family.

AROUND THE BRANCHES

ALSTONVILLE:

While some members were away in Tasmania at the Rort, another group had a visit to Barry and Colleen Lancaster's at Chatsworth Island. Sadly, numbers were down but those who attended appreciated the effort put in by Colleen and Barry and did their best to devour all the sumptuous nibbles and prawns. The Lancasters have an idyllic spot close to the Clarence River, a home designed for entertaining, and Barry has a workshop large and equipped enough to make the males decidedly green.



Alstonville Members at Lunch at the Lancasters – Colleen Lancaster far right

June meeting was a Chinese Banquet at Alstonville Bowling Club.

The sadists in the Club have requested that the weekend away in late July be to Glen Innes. Long Johns and hot toddies will be the order of the day. Activities over the weekend will include a Christmas in July dinner, Saturday lunch at Crofters Cottage at the 'Standing Stones', a Museum visit, and

a heritage walk on Sunday morning to clear the cobwebs prior to departure.

At the Rort in Devonport, Rob Noble was elected to the position of Apex 40 International Relations and Apex Liaison.

GRAFTON:

April meeting was a 'pub night'. After initially meeting and drinking at the Grafton Hotel, a small but enthusiastic group adjourned to Roches Hotel for dinner and more drinks and tales from the Tasmanian Apex 40 Rort. The Chessells and Moffats enthusiastically related their Tasmanian adventure at the 2005 Devonport Rort. They were very glowing in their praise of the organisers and the Tasmanian weather and were very proud to announce that yet again Grafton had won the Golf.

The meeting included a proposal to change our club name from Oasis to APEX 40 in order to be in line with other clubs.

May meeting was a visit to the Grafton Tenpin Bowl to try and knock off defending champion Bill Moffat. Carol Moffat put on a sausage sizzler after the bowling.

Two weekends away are planned; a camping weekend at 'The Gorge' in June and a weekend at Dorrig in August to coincide with the Bellingen Jazz Festival and Markets.

THE GREAT EIGHT:

May meeting at Savannah On Swan at Morpeth was on Friday 13th, so members had to go dressed in something black.

LAUNCESTON:

Eight members attended the Rort at Devonport, which was the first Rort for David and Berenice Glover who enjoyed the experience immensely. May meeting was a counter meal at the Sunny Hills complex at Ravenswood. Another counter meal and jazz afternoon in June and then a casserole lunch at Chris and Lucille Austin's home in July.

MANLY:

Guest Speaker at the May meeting was Captain Grant Kingston-Kerr, who gave an insight into the history of the Salvation Army as well as the work carried on by the Army today and the impact it has had on his life. The surplus of \$600 from the Apex District reunion held in March was donated to the Apex Childrens Chalet and it is planned to organise a working bee to travel to the Chalet in the warmer months. The Club had earlier donated \$1200 to the Northern Beaches Lifeline Crisis Line which was used to purchase a data projector for delivering training programs.

MELBOURNE-GIPPSLAND:

The twilight 'Tram Boat' cruise in March down the Yarra to Williamstown was a great event. A wonderful trip, with fish and chips on the return trip and a fabulous sunset thrown in; then a look around the sights of a busy night time at the docks to finish off a most enjoyable evening. May dinner was at 'Fountains' restaurant at the Box Hill TAFE College, with a delightful 3-course meal prepared and served by students from the catering course. The

annual Apex 40 Birthday Bash in July will be at the Jells Park Tea House.

MOREE:

Murder in Moree! Members, dressed in Western /Indian gear, gathered at the Vic Saloon in May to solve the mystery of this dastardly deed. Members appeared in a diverse range of costumes to play various roles in a great night of fun. Dinner Notice Editor Jenny Elsley was eventually revealed as the murderer to cries of "murdering bitch" but, as Jenny says, "You can't insult a dog-breeder by calling her a bitch!"

NEPEAN VALLEY:

Fifteen members travelled to Devonport and enjoyed a terrific Rort. Congratulations to Devonport members for a great Apex 40 weekend. Dinner Notice Editor Maralyn Kastel won the Penultimate Trophy for Nepean Valley and Barry Leavett-Brown won the award for the 'Best Dressed Male' at the Saturday night bush dance. All of the Nepean Valley members joined together on the Sunday night to give a presentation about the 2006 Rort, thanks to Joyce Leavett-Brown who had the task of trying to co-ordinate 15 alcohol-affected members to perform their one-liners featuring "P" for Penrith – indeed a challenge!

May meeting was at the 'Beef and Barramundi' at Penrith for a 3-course dinner and the Club's birthday meeting in June was in the Castlereagh Room at the Penrith RSL.

REDLANDS:

A picture perfect day for the March meeting on Macleay Island when more

than 40 members travelled across for a relaxing afternoon capped off with an excellent meal and jovial fellowship. Charlie and Marcie Irvin organised a golf tournament at the Carbrook Golf Club to participate in the Apex 40 Golf Competition. The Redlands team only missed out by one point in the competition, won again by Grafton Apex 40.

Twenty members attended the Rort in Devonport where Redlands members Bob McKernon and Marcie Irvin were elected as National President and National Secretary-Treasurer, respectively. Ross Pollock made a presentation at the AGM about the Club's proposal to hold the 2007 Rort in Mackay, North Queensland with the assistance of the Mackay Apex Club and the proposal was accepted unanimously.

May dinner meeting was at the Cleveland Room at the Alexandra Hills Hotel. July meeting will be combined with Redlands Apex Club's handover and will be a 'Masked Dinner' at the Pacific Resort Motel at Cleveland.

A weekend away is planned for late August to Lennox Head, NSW.

SUNRAYSLA:

Only a few members made the trip to the Perry Sandhills to see and hear James Morrison and, though the evening was a bit cool, the show was fantastic.

A number of members helped Redcliffs Apex Club with their raffle stand at Target in March.

May meeting was a lunch at the Brewery Pub in Mildura where members were given an overview of the brew a tour of the Theatre Club and old projection room, and treated to a taste of the four beers currently in production.

WYONG:

April meeting was a banquet dinner at the Canton Restaurant at Toukley when the 15 members who had been to the Rort had plenty of tales to tell. This meeting saw the return of President Peter Ryall from overseas where he attended a dinner of the Seremban Apex 40 Club in Malaysia. Apex in Malaysia has abolished the retiring age and, consequently, the President of Seremban Apex 40 is also the President of Seremban Apex Club!



May dinner meeting was at the Forresters Beach Resort and members have been invited to a "Wake For Apex" to be hosted by the 'Old Apex Club of Toronto' in July. (Why not the Toronto Apex 40 Club? Ed.)

At left, we see a photo of Perth Apex 40 Members at Dinner.

A FEW PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE RORT & THE POST RORT TOUR



Above: At the Welcome Social - Don Addison (Devonport, second from left) with Bendigo members Malcolm Andrew, David Bidmade, Ron Clarke and Peter Dumont.

Below: Devonport members at Welcome Social.





Above: Anette & Richard Cavanagh (Sunraysia), Jenny & David McCullagh (Redlands) & John Bate (Wyong) at Cradle Mountain. Rob & Helen Noble (Alstonville) in background.

Below: Redlands members Bob McKernon (New National President), Marcie Irvin (new National Sec./Treas.) & Charlie Irvin with David Foster.





Above: On the terrace at 'High Tide'

Below: Lunch at Banjo's Bakery – Strahan





Above: Alan Flaherty, Nola Kinder and Marianne Speirs (Melb-Gipps) and Dave McCullagh (Redlands) at Lower Landing.

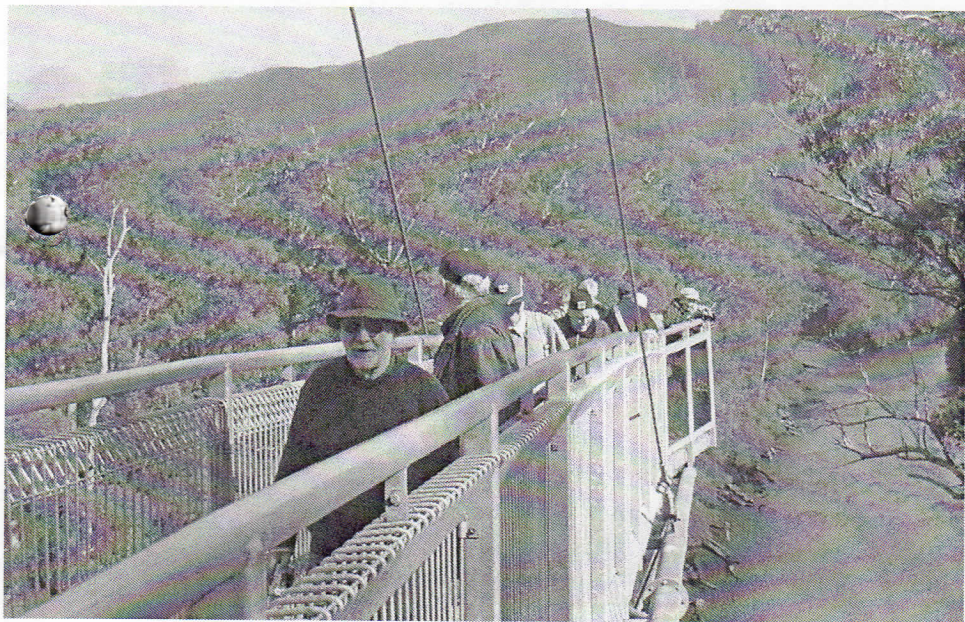
Below: Max Cheney (Melb. Norwesters), Ros Chessell, Bill Moffat, Peter Chessell, Carol Moffat (Grafton)





Above: On the Tahune Forest Air-Walk – Jenny McCullagh (Redlands) leads Nola Kinder (Melb-Gipps) Sandy Harmer (Wyang), and others

Below: On the cantilever section of the Air-Walk.





Above: At Richmond – Richard Cavanagh (Sunraysia), seated – Geoff Hegarty, Dave McCullagh (Redlands), Nola Kinder, Marge Flaherty (Melb-Gipps).

Below: History lesson at Ross.



A Few web sites to visit:

<http://www.apex40.org>

(Our official Apex 40 web site. Check it out and send in your own photographs and contributions)

<http://home.pacific.net.au/~apadg>

<http://www.caravanning-oz.com>

<http://www.mgtravel.com.au/>

<http://www.ontheroad.net.au>

<http://www.caravantrader.com.au>

<http://www.apex.org.au>

<http://www.nsherman.info>

<http://www.tlcforkids.org.au>

<http://www.seniorsite.com/>

<http://www.greypath.com/Portal/main/index.asp>

<http://www.aboutseniors.com.au>

<http://www.naa.gov.au/>

<http://www.benaway.com.au>

<http://www.bonzer.org.au>

<http://www.CyndisList.com>

<http://www.ancestry.com>

<http://www.familysearch.org>

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~arpao50>

 **are always looking to receive photos of club functions, which we feel add considerably to the look and content of Roaring 40's.**

In these days of digital cameras, it should be quite easy for you to send us copies by email of some of those many photos taken at your club functions. So PLEASE send a few photos after any special function so that we can see what you have been up to.

Editor's email address appears on the back page.

Thanks to Eddie Bradfield (Lismore), Alan and Mary Bach (Redlands), and David Huett (Alstonville) for photos that appear in this issue.

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

e-mail: alkinder@optusnet.com.au

THE NEXT DEADLINE IS
31 October, 2005

- FOR SALE - **APEX 40 GEAR**

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Glen Waverley, Vic. 3150
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STICK PINS – Cost: \$3.50

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

CAR STICKERS – Cost: \$1.00

Available from –

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

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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.**