



APEX 40

MELBOURNE – GIPPSLAND BRANCH

President

Alan Kinder
9898 5124 (H)

Secretary

Marj Flaherty
9802 7655 (H)

Treasurer

Colin Speirs
5940 5097 (H)

Newsletter Editor

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9729 3953 (H)

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14 January 2011

IN THIS EDITION OF THE NEWSLETTER.....

PRESIDENT ALAN'S REPORT

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT GEOFF'S ANNUAL REPORT
FOR THE YEAR 2010

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COMING EVENTS



DINNER MEETING – No. 224

Time: 7:00 pm for 7:30 pm

Date: THURSDAY, 24 FEBRUARY 2011

Venue: CLAYTON BOWLS CLUB, Springs Rd., Clayton. Mel 79 A4

Cost: \$20 per head. Drinks at bar prices.

Bookings: To Marj Flaherty by Friday 18 February. Phone 9802 7655.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



I hope all members had an enjoyable Christmas and, now that 2011 has arrived, may I wish you all good health and happiness for the year ahead.

As your new (recycled) President, I wish to express my thanks, and I'm sure the thanks of all members, for the excellent job Geoff Angus has done as President for the last three years. While our numbers have diminished somewhat, Geoff has managed to keep our interest at a high level with a varied program of meetings and social functions and has made sure that all Club activities have run smoothly for the enjoyment of members. Thanks Geoff, from all of us. I must also thank Marj Flaherty and Colin Speirs for agreeing to continue in their respective roles of Secretary and Treasurer which they have both done so well for a number of years. I am sure their continued support will make my job much easier.

The run-up to Christmas was saddened for Melbourne-Gippsland members by the passing of our very popular member Alan Padgham who was one of the small group responsible for establishing Apex 40 back in 1973. Alan will be sadly missed by his fellow Club members and throughout Apex 40 where he had given valuable service in the production of the national newsletter Roaring 40's and in setting up and operating the Apex 40 website for many years. A memorial service for Alan was attended by many of his Apex 40 friends on the afternoon of our Christmas dinner meeting.

We had 32 members at our Christmas dinner meeting which was pleasing as our number at recent meetings has generally been rather less than 30. We welcomed a new old face in Tom Bedohasy, ex Bayswater Apex, who had attended our Apex 40 meetings quite some years ago. Our collection for Cottage by the Sea raised \$265 and we made this up to \$300 from Club funds. I have received a very nice letter of thanks from them, a copy of which is in this newsletter.

Congratulations to David Whitchurch who won the Kinder Classic narrowly from Garth. At my suggestion, a few ladies joined the golfers for lunch and a report by Garth on the day is included herein.

Congratulations also to Trish Tonkin who, just prior to Christmas, was honoured by being awarded the Williamstown Little Theatre's "Cordell Award" for 'Best Performer in a Leading Role in 2010' for her role as Florence Foster-Jenkins in "Glorious", which a number of us saw when it had an extended season at Heidelberg Theatre Company.

While our next dinner meeting is not until 24th February, we have got this issue out early to remind members about our next social function which will be our annual visit to the Healesville picnic races on Sunday 6th February. If you have not been before, please think about joining us this year as I am sure you will enjoy the day. Bring a picnic lunch, something to drink and a chair. We are always able to get a shady spot – under the trees just past the totalisator. Entry to the course is from the Healesville-Kinglake Road, Melway reference 269 J 12. Arrive any time after about 11.00 am.

Following the success of our "few days away" last year at Lake Nagambie, we will consider, at this meeting, a proposal for a similar venture in March or April this year. Geoff Angus has put forward a possible proposal for consideration for a few days at Marengo, near Apollo Bay, and a report by Geoff is in this newsletter.

Alan Kinder

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT FOR YEAR 2010



The year 2010 has been a fairly typical one for our Branch – 6 planned meetings during the year plus several social occasions. Five of the meetings have been dinner meetings at the Clayton Bowls Club with the sixth being a luncheon at the Dava Hotel at Mt Martha in June. With almost all our members in retirement, it was not really surprising that we recently decided to hold a second luncheon meeting in 2011 in place of the August dinner meeting.

At our February meeting, Colin Speirs conducted a lively quiz session and in April Alan Kinder made a presentation with photos of the Kinders' visit to the Kimberley Region. After touring around the UK and France, Lionel Mussell returned home and at our August meeting spoke to us about his (and his friend Murphy's) experiences while overseas.

Attendances have typically been in the low 20s but it is pleasing that so many will be attending this Christmas dinner meeting. Although our membership is nearly 50, we have quite a number of members whom we haven't seen in recent years. This raises two issues for us. One is that some members have not paid their fees and therefore are liable to be dropped from membership. The second is that we have not recruited "new and younger" members from the largely untapped numbers of ex-Apex members and their ladies in Melbourne and the nearby part of Gippsland. Seeking new members is one area that I have not adequately addressed after saying that I would via the establishment of a Membership Taskforce. It is my intention to implement that action in 2011 – with the assistance of others – when I have retired from Presidential duties.

The Kinder Classic was held in January thanks to the organising of Mike Pavey who also won the event as reported by our roving reporter Garth Whitchurch. We were again able to have members attend the Picnic races at Healesville in February and in late March we held our first ever "Midweek Away" thanks to the planning by Neil and Margaret Hookey at Nagambie Lakes Leisure Park. (It looks as though we will have more of these events in the future.) In July we reinstated the previously annual Apex 40 Birthday BBQ Luncheon at Don and Rosemary Blackley's home in Drouin and although not well attended, those who did attend had a very pleasant day. We decided to forego the day train trip to a Victorian country town this year but decided to consider a future longer trip with an overnight stay. Eight members went to see Patricia McCracken-Tonkin in "Glorious" at the Heidelberg Theatre and in November we were hosted by Ken and Barbara Neate for the annual Melbourne Cup Day BBQ – always a great occasion. Unfortunately our planned visit to the Royal Botanic Gardens at Cranbourne in November had to be cancelled because of the very adverse weather conditions that were forecast.

We were again well represented at the Apex 40 Rort, this time hosted by our long-time friends in Bendigo Apex 40. Attendees at the Rort were Geoff & Lyn Angus, Alan & Marg Flaherty, Ley & Shirley Garrett, Neil & Margaret Hookey, Alan & Nola Kinder, Barry Preston & Lois, Max & Jean Reid and Garth Whitchurch & Carol. Although we didn't win any awards this year, we thoroughly enjoyed the company of so many Apex 40 members from around the country as well as a few New Zealander 41 Club members.

The production of our Newsletter was certainly different this year due the unfortunate stroke suffered by Alan Padgham at our February meeting. Alan produced the January Newsletter and I compiled the next two. Then Alex Jurga offered to take on the role as Newsletter Editor and has now produced the last three issues and they are becoming better with each issue. Thanks Alex for taking on this important role.

2010 has not been a great year for the health of a number of us with both Alan Padgham and Barry Preston suffering strokes and of course the very recent passing of Alan. Lorraine Burgess, Marj Flaherty, Ley Garrett, Lionel Mussell, Frank Mainwaring, Patricia Tonkin and others have suffered ill health or have undergone operations or treatment. We hope that ill health will leave us alone in 2011 but the reality is that

we are aging and therefore we have to face the consequences. Never the less, I hope that membership of our Apex 40 Branch does provide the continuing friendship that we shared during our involvement with Apex.

On a brighter note, I should emphasise that we have been particularly fortunate in having Marj Flaherty as our Secretary for many years – how many years Marj? She always has things under control and does it without any fuss or fanfare. Our finances are in excellent shape thanks to the ever helpful Colin Speirs as our Treasurer. The healthy level of accumulated funds is basically due to members who attend dinner meetings and I firmly believe that these funds should be used to the benefit of those members. For example, last year the train trip away was paid out of these accumulated funds and perhaps we might consider making 2011 a fee-free year for annual fees.

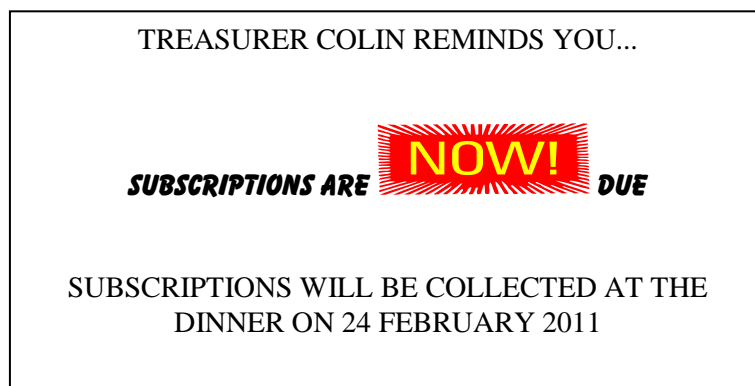
Finally, I must raise the matter of elections that will take place at the Christmas dinner meeting. My President's page in the December Newsletter included the following:

Marj Flaherty and Colin Speirs stated at our previous dinner meeting that they were prepared to continue as Secretary and Treasurer respectively if there were no other candidates. However, we do need to find a new President for next year as I will have completed 3 years in that position. I will of course, be willing to provide any assistance that might be requested by the new President.

As stated above, this year completes my third year as President – one more year than the “contract” specified. I am really looking forward to handing over to a new President (or perhaps a recycled President) who will no doubt have new ideas and perspectives. As I said in my 2009 report, I will support the new President and continue involvement, especially in the Membership Taskforce.

Finally, I must thank the co-operation and guidance provided by my wife Lyn who is my “Manager” and who I must admit is better organised than I am. If I take on a role, she becomes as almost as committed as I am and that attitude and co-operation is gratefully acknowledged by me. After 50 years of marriage I think we have a very good understanding of each other and of our strengths and weaknesses.

Geoff Angus
President 2008-2010



Cutting Remarks

Paddy and Mick are waiting at the bus stop when a truck goes past loaded up with rolls of turf.

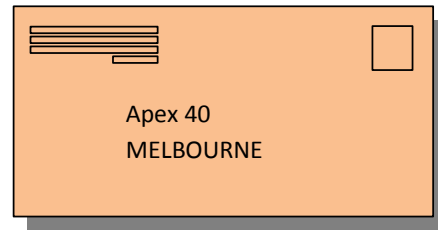
Paddy says...“Ya Know...When I win da Lottery... I’m gonna do dat dere meself...”

“What's dat den...?”...asks Mick.

“Send me lawn out to be cut” ...!!

COTTAGES BY THE SEA

*Thank You Letter for Donations Made at our
December Meeting*



Dear Alan and Members,

We all thank you!

On behalf of the many disadvantaged children who holiday at Cottage by the Sea, I wish to thank you for your very generous donation of \$300.00. This donation is very much appreciated and will be put to good use for our visiting children.

As requested, I have enclosed the three receipts for the individual donations for you to pass on to the three donors.

Cottage by the Sea is committed to providing quality, short term relief care for children whose families are experiencing extreme difficulties. This care is in a safe, enjoyable and relaxed holiday environment, and at the same time gives their families the opportunity to deal with their difficulties, secure in the knowledge that their children are being looked after by caring, fully trained professional staff.

This year is our 120th year of providing care for these children and as we rely on our donors support to continue, your donation will make such a difference to our ability to give children a break from their problems.

Each year, more and more children are identified as being in need of our services, and we at the Cottage, relying totally on support such as yours, strive to continue to provide these children with a holiday experience and the opportunity to develop self-esteem, enjoy life's simple pleasures, learn new skills and make new friends.

Thanks again for your very valuable support, and we wish you a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

*A. Featherston
General Manager
14th December, 2010*



HISTORY QUESTIONS...

Where in Melbourne is the Eight Hour Monument?

and

what is shown at the top of the monument?

Please have your answer ready at the Dinner.



A PLANE IS ON ITS WAY TO CHICAGO WHEN A BLONDE IN ECONOMY CLASS GETS UP, AND MOVES TO THE FIRST CLASS SECTION AND SITS DOWN.
THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT WATCHES HER DO THIS, AND ASKS TO SEE HER TICKET.
SHE THEN TELLS THE BLONDE THAT SHE PAID FOR ECONOMY CLASS, AND THAT SHE WILL HAVE TO SIT IN THE BACK.
THE BLONDE REPLIES, "I'M BLONDE, I'M BEAUTIFUL, I'M GOING TO CHICAGO AND I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE."
THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT GOES INTO THE COCKPIT AND TELLSTHE PILOT AND THE CO-PILOT THAT THERE IS A BLONDE BIMBO SITTING IN FIRST CLASS, THAT BELONGS IN ECONOMY, AND WON'T MOVE BACK TO HER SEAT.
THE CO-PILOT GOES BACK TO THE BLONDE AND TRIES TO EXPLAIN THAT BECAUSE SHE ONLY PAID FOR ECONOMY SHE WILL HAVE TO LEAVE AND RETURN TO HER SEAT.
THE BLONDE REPLIES, "I'M BLONDE, I'M BEAUTIFUL, I'M GOING TO CHICAGO AND I'M STAYING RIGHT HERE."
THE CO-PILOT TELLS THE PILOT THAT HE PROBABLY SHOULD HAVE THE POLICE WAITING WHEN THEY LAND TO ARREST THIS BLONDE WOMAN, WHO WON'T LISTEN TO REASON.
THE PILOT SAYS, "YOU SAY SHE IS A BLONDE? I'LL HANDLE THIS, I'M MARRIED TO A BLONDE. I SPEAK BLONDE."
HE GOES BACK TO THE BLONDE AND WHISPERS IN HER EAR, AND SHE SAYS, "OH, I'M SORRY." AND GETS UP AND GOES BACK TO HER SEAT IN ECONOMY.
THE FLIGHT ATTENDANT AND CO-PILOT ARE AMAZED AND ASKED HIM WHAT HE SAID TO MAKE HER MOVE WITHOUT ANY FUSS.
I TOLD HER,
"FIRST CLASS ISN'T GOING TO CHICAGO"



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2011 MIDWEEK AWAY

In the October 2010 Newsletter, *Geoff's Greetings* included the following:

" Without wishing to make a decision at this time, Lyn and I have considered a weekend away at Apollo Bay. We could use our holiday house near Apollo Bay and the nearby Marengo Holiday Park. Whilst we can accommodate up to 12 people – 10 would be a more practical number – the Marengo Holiday Park has plenty of accommodation and is about 400 metres away. The Park has a number of cabins as well as sites for caravans and campers. This is only a suggestion and the decision on another midweek away is up to members and the new President."

President Alan Kinder has requested that we consider this proposal so the following information has been compiled to give members a clearer understanding of what might be involved. Marengo is basically a residential area on the south coast, 3 km beyond Apollo Bay when heading west along the Great Ocean Road.

Accommodation

Marengo Holiday Park is described on its website (www.marengopark.com.au) in the following terms:

Relax in Apollo Bay's only Beach Front accommodation. We offer fully self contained cabins with the option of a Spa and Gas Log Fire. Linen provided for queen size bed, linen hire available for second bedroom. All cabins as well as our powered and unpowered sites enjoy panoramic ocean views.

A beautiful swimming beach abuts the park, and the Marengo Reef Marine Sanctuary (ideal for snorkelling, diving and Kayaking), with its resident seal colony is in full view.

Park facilities include modern amenities block with laundry, dedicated family and disabled bathrooms, fully enclosed Camp Kitchen, adventure playground, and outdoor BBQ area and WIFI internet access (free for cabin guests).

Don't forget to bring your walking shoes and a Bike. Marengo Holiday Park is the jump off point for the Great Ocean Walk, and a bike track connects the park to the centre of Apollo Bay.



View from Marengo Holiday Park



View of the Angus holiday house

Geoff and Lyn's holiday house is two-story with 4 bedrooms upstairs along with a large lounge/dining and kitchen area plus a sunroom and external decking with a gas BBQ. There are two bathrooms and two toilets and a full laundry. The house and decking have wide views of the sea and the Otways.

Downstairs there are another 4 beds in a large room that incorporates a table tennis area. There is a separate bathroom with a toilet. Perhaps the downstairs area should be restricted to two Apex 40 guests rather than four.

Things to do

The following is also copied from the Marengo Park website.

- Photograph the wonderful scenery and wildlife.
- Fish the Ocean or nearby Rivers.
- Marengo Reef Marine Sanctuary (ideal for snorkelling and diving), with its resident Seal colony is in full view.
- Take a drive to the 12 Apostles – stop on the way to visit numerous places of interest.
- Relax with a leisurely beach walk.
- Go Surfing.
- Visit nearby Maits Rest.
- Go horse riding on the beach.
- Enjoy a delightful meal at any of the many Cafes and Restaurants.
- Triplet Falls and Otway Fly Day Trips.

Timing

The week Monday 28 March to Friday 1 April is the suggested timing – the weather should be good at this time of year. Last year at Nagambie, some members stayed for 2 nights while others stayed for 3. An earlier timing is not suitable to Geoff and Lyn as they will be in New Zealand during early-mid March and a later timing in April could be awkward due to their other commitments.

Costs

The charges at Marengo Holiday Park for the above mentioned period are as follows:

- Deluxe cabin (two bedrooms) = \$110 per night for 2 adults.
- Deluxe cabin with spa (two bedrooms) = \$140 per night for 2 adults.
- On-site van (full en-suite) = \$80 per night for 2 adults.
- Powered caravan site = \$29 per night for 2 adults.

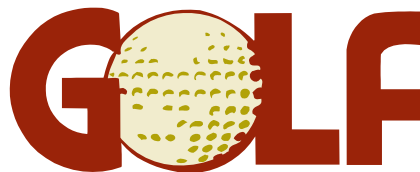
Unfortunately we cannot obtain any discount for a 2 or 3 night stay at the Park but we could if there were sufficient numbers of cabins & caravan sites booked for a 4 or 5 night's stay.

The sharing of expenses at the Angus holiday house will need to be determined but will obviously be very reasonable.

Decision and further information

Because the end of March is not far off and our next dinner meeting will not be held until the 24 February, we need to make a decision on whether we have our Midweek Away at Marengo in late March as outlined above. If you are interested in attending, either staying at the Marengo Holiday Park or at the Angus holiday house, please contact Geoff or Lyn so that a decision can be made about a forward booking to secure some cabins & caravan sites at the Marengo Holiday Park. **Please make contact by Sunday 13 February** on 9874 4446 or send an email to geoffangus@optusnet.com.au If you need further information or if you wish to provide any suggestions, please contact Geoff or Lyn.

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KINDER CLASSIC

It is now 27 years since we first started the "Kinder Classic" back in 1983 and won by our now president Alan Kinder. Our cup was won by Alan's Dad, Arthur in 1936 so our actual trophy has been around for 74 years.

For the first time in this major event we had some of our ladies join us for lunch upstairs in the Box Hill Golf Club restaurant. Those ladies who joined us were Nola Kinder, Marianne Speirs, Margaret Hookey and Carol Simons and with a restaurant meal Mike Pavey for the first time for quite a while did not have to be the chef for our BBQ. Numbers were about usual with 3 groups of 4.



Frank Miller (ex Box Hill), Colin, Marianne and Nola

Those who participated from Apex days were:-

David Anderson
Neil Hookey
Rod Sands

Max Cheney
Frank Miller
Garth Whitchurch

Geoff Heath
Mike Pavey
Alan Witham

Guests were Garth's son David and his 2 friends, Brenden Sard and John Barker.



President Alan presenting Cup to David Whitchurch

The day started in overcast conditions with a bit of humidity and an estimated top temperature of 34c. The weather remained fine and enabled some respectable scores to be tabled.

Winners were:-

Kinder Classic:- David Whitchurch on 39 stableford points and from a count back from his Dad (Garth) also on 39.

3rd Place:- David Anderson on 37.

4th Place:- Mike Pavey on 36.

So you can see the scores were fairly close.

Other winners and awards were:-

Best 1st Nine- Mike Pavey

Best 2nd Nine and nearest the pin on 17th- John Barker.

Longest Drive and nearest the pin on 6th - David Whitchurch.

And the dreaded NAGA went to Neil Hookey whose excuse was that he had travelled back from Nagambie the day before to be with us!!

Prizes were presented by President Alan and special thanks go to those who provided our trophies so that we all got a prize, and of course local member Mike Pavey for his organising and negotiations with Box Hill Golf Club.

A great day of golf and enjoyed by all especially with some of our ladies joining us for lunch.

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Neil with Geoff Heath (Camberwell Apex), Max Cheney (Coburg Apex) and David Anderson (Box Hill Apex)

A CERTIFIED ACCOUNT

A woman brought a very limp duck into a veterinary surgeon. As she laid her pet on the table, the vet pulled out his stethoscope and listened to the bird's chest.

After a moment or two, the vet shook his head and sadly said, "I'm sorry, your duck, Cuddles, has passed away."

The distressed woman wailed, "Are you sure?"

"Yes, I am sure. Your duck is dead," replied the vet.

"How can you be so sure?" she protested. "I mean you haven't done any testing on him or anything. He might just be in a coma or something."

The vet rolled his eyes, turned around and left the room. He returned a few minutes later with a black Labrador Retriever. As the duck's owner looked on in amazement, the dog stood on his hind legs, put his front paws on the examination table and sniffed the duck from top to bottom. He then looked up at the vet with sad eyes and shook his head.

The vet patted the dog on the head and took it out of the room. A few minutes later he returned with a cat. The cat jumped on the table and also delicately sniffed the bird

from head to foot. The cat sat back on its haunches, shook its head, meowed softly and strolled out of the room.

The vet looked at the woman and said, "I'm sorry, but as I said, this is most definitely, 100% certifiably, a dead duck."

The vet turned to his computer terminal, hit a few keys and produced a bill, which he handed to the woman.

The duck's owner, still in shock, took the bill. "£150!" she cried, "£150 just to tell me my duck is dead!"

The vet shrugged, "I'm sorry. If you had just taken my word for it, the bill would have been £20, but with the Lab Report and the Cat Scan, it's now £150."

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ENCORE.....

Well, "Glorious" had not been 'put to bed' after all.

At the Williamstown Little Theatre Cordell Day and Christmas Party Sunday week ago I was honoured by being awarded their "Cordell Award" for Best Performer in Leading Role in 2010 – Patricia McCracken for her role as Florence Foster-Jenkins in "Glorious". Peter Dennis, who played Cosme, was also nominated along with one other male performer in another play. Williamstown do five plays a year. "Glorious" was also named as the 'Production of the Year'.

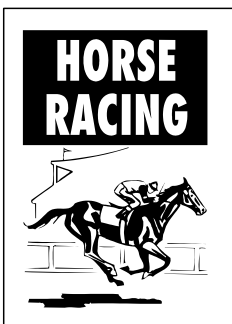
Believe me, this time that's all folks.

Patricia (Trish)

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HEALESVILLE PICNIC RACES

SUNDAY 6 FEBRUARY



Bring a picnic lunch, something to drink and a chair. We are always able to get a shady spot – under the trees just past the totalisator.

Entry to the course is from the Healesville-Kinglake Road, Melway reference 269 J 12.

Arrive any time after about 11.00 am.

COMING EVENTS 2011

Sunday	6 February	Healesville Picnic Races
Thursday	24 February	Dinner Meeting 224
March	TBA	Midweek Away