

# FUTURE LOOKS ROSY FOR APEX

Wauchope Apex Club glided smoothly into its 23rd year as a local service club last Friday night, when long standing Apexian Neil Eggert accepted the office of president for the ensuing 1979/80 Apex year.

Neil Eggert takes over the role of Apex leader at a time when the Wauchope Club can look forward with satisfaction and great expectation.

Chartered in 1957, Wauchope Apex reviewed a most successful year of activity at Friday's changeover dinner held in the surrounds of the Wauchope RSL Club.

Retiring president Les Boaden qualified this when he made the pleasing announcement that the Club now has a record 28 members.

In his annual report, Les revealed this figure to be an increase of 25 per cent.

Speaking to fellow Apexians and their wives, visitors and guests, he referred to the Club treasurer's report which noted over \$17,000 had been turned over in the service account, up \$3500 on the previous year.

"Service in the community has again been very good, the major schemes being: childrens park maintenance, Apex fireworks night, transportation of Senior Citizens, Christmas carnival, show barbecue, firewood for Senior Citizen, town clean-up, the merry-go round at several functions throughout the year, the learn to drive scheme, barbecue at field day, pine tree planting, golf and bowls day to assist Spastic Council candidate, youth training camp, young peoples disco.

Donations were made to a variety of local and national charities and these are listed in the treasurer's report and, as can be seen, Bundaleer received the major dona-

tions of \$2,831.

The 1205 service hours worked for the year was surprisingly down from last year's 1300, but I feel members quite often did not book in the actual hours worked. With an average membership throughout the year of 24 the average hours worked was approximately 50 hours per member and I would like to thank each member who gave their time so readily."

Offering the toast to the Association of Apex Clubs, life member Frank Harrison said the Association, formed in Geelong in 1930, had a desire to serve the community and has done this well in many countries.

Apex has a magnificent record in Australia and Wauchope Club could feel very proud of the president's annual report.

Mr. Harrison said this was an example of what Apex could do for the community. He urged Apexians to think again of the main ideas of Apex — service, citizenship and fellowship.

The Club had numerous guests at the dinner including life members, RSL, Civilian Widows, fellow service clubs and Miss Australia candidate Miss Sue Ostler.

There was also a contingent of Apexians from the Camden Haven Club with whom Wauchope Apex keep in close touch.

Visitors and guests were welcomed by John Leicht, the response being given by Shire President and life member of Wauchope Apex, Cr. John Ali-Saab.

Cr. Ali-Saab recalled with pride his membership of Apex (he was president in 1967-68) and said the Club enjoyed a tremendous reputation for serving the community, a reputation denied older generations.

"Wauchope is better off because of Apex," he said.

A third life member, Ted Pasfield, presented awards for service, inter club visiting and 100% attendance, and endorsed the remarks of Frank Harrison and Cr. Ali-Saab.

The service award went to incoming president Neil Eggert; visiting John Lawrence; seven members attained 100% attendance (Les Boaden, Neil Eggert, John Lawrence, John Clayworth, John Leicht, John Stephens and Brian Thomas).

In his address, Neil Eggert called for a unit-

ed community project for the purpose of furnishing the Bundaleer Nursing Home.

He said he would be suggesting the joint service scheme to other service clubs in the near future.

Bill Pearce offered a vote of thanks to RSL and caterers.

The new Apex Board of Directors includes: Neil Eggert, John Leicht, Eric Main, John Lawrence, Greg Laidler, Colin Latimore, Bill Berne, Doug Thomas, Peter Reid, Les Boaden, Brian Thomas, John Stephens.

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Gazette  
26/07/1979. p1.







Life Member of the Wauchope Apex Club, Mr. Ted Pasfield, installed Neil Eggert (centre) as the new President of the Club at the 22nd Changeover Dinner held in the Wauchope R.S.L. Club last Friday night. Retiring President Les Boaden completes the picture. Both Presidents led the Apex members by example as detailed in the report of the Club Historian, presented to the Dinner meeting. Another of Apex's Life Members Frank Harrison had the honour of wishing Jeff Palmer, pictured with wife Margaret, good wishes for the future. Jeff has reached the retirement age of "40 years" and leaves Apex. A past President of the Club, Jeff has a long association with Wauchope Apex to look back on, and was congratulated on Friday night for his role as Committee Chairman for Apexians "event of the year" the 500th Dinner held in November last year. Jeff received the traditional Apex gift, a walking stick.



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An Apex Thought...

## "Here's To Wauchope - Long May It Thrive"

A feature of Wauchope Apex Club's 200th Dinner, held as a prelude to Christmas, was a "three-minuter" given by an original Charter Member, Harold James, who, during his experiences in Apex, blossomed from a nervous and hesitant speaker into an "after-dinner" orator with few peers in this community. Harold is no longer a member of Apex, and it was indeed fitting that the 200th "three minuter" should have been given to one who gave wonderful service to Apex in Wauchope and set a fine example for community service.

President Bill Glass was chairman for the 200th Dinner, held in the Masonic Hall and attended, not only by Wauchope Apex members and their wives, but by contingents of Apexians from sponsor Club, Port Macquarie, and Taree.

Of the original Charter Members, only Keith McMillan and Bill Oakley remain as active members, with Peter Dark the Club's only Life Member.

In interesting and humorous vein, the "three-minuter" offered by Harold James, traced briefly the Club's activities over the years.

There were times during our inaugural year, when the Club membership fell to as low a number as twelve, that we had serious misgivings about our future (said Harold).

However, like many organisations, despite the difficulties of infancy, the Apex Club of Wauchope has grown in stature to the stage where it enjoys respect and renown in our community.

The secret of success of Apex is that it is a young men's club.

Sitting here tonight, it seems there is a difference. Perhaps my wife summed up the position

correctly when she remarked a moment ago: "Look at those young chaps — they are young and unmarried. They are happy!"

I am charged with giving a "three minuter" on the subject of the chartering of our Club. However, I may run into minutes to cover such a subject.

In the inaugural year, the time limits of a "three minuter" were rigidly adhered to, and, in fact, many of the members had difficulty in staying the time and were apt to break down after one minute. Others rapidly developed and it was necessary to restrain them from proceeding to half an hour.

The provisional Apex Club of Wauchope was launched in 1957 by the combined efforts of the Wauchope Rotary Club and Port Macquarie Apex Club.

Port Macquarie Apex Club remained as our sponsoring Club.

From the beginning, we were impressed by the fluency of address of the Apexians from Taree and Port Macquarie. We ourselves often found difficulty in stammering out our names and occupations as required.

It is a matter of extreme regret that two of

the principals associated with the foundation of the Club have passed away. I refer to the then District Governor and Taree member, Bob Nelson, and to the inaugural Wauchope President, Kevin Thomas.

(Continued on Page Ten)

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Shire Gazette.  
6/01/1966

## An Apex Thought

(Continued from Page 1)

Following the inaugural dinner, it was necessary to prove ourselves worthy of charter, and to this end much time was given to community service.

One of our earlier efforts was the improvement of the river bank by the Milk Factory at the end of Randall Street; and at that time, not being so well known, we incurred the disapproval of the directors of the Upper Hastings Co-op. Dairy Society—for severing the outlet drain to the river in our youthful enthusiasm!

In time, we were required to furnish an application for Charter.

This fearsome task was enough to daunt the most intrepid, for 24 copies of directors' reports and statistics forms were required to be made and presented to Zone Board for its consideration. This monumental task was accomplished by a battery of typewriters manned by Apexians in Peter Mero's office.

Apparently Zone Board were impressed by the quality of our application for, in due course, we became Apex Club of Wauchope No. 233 of the Association of Apex Clubs.

Of course, it was not all work.

I remember the wonderful fellowship. I recall the night when, whilst John O'dell recited that moving ballad 'The Shooting of Dangerous Dan McGrew,' and, as two guns blazed in the dark, Gordon Gray fell to the floor of the stage in most convincing manner.

I remember the five-minute acts and especially Port Macquarie's "Green Door"—ask Charles Thurling what lay behind the "green door" before the subject becomes forgotten as Wauchope receives modern amenities!

Most of all, I remember the never to be forgotten "Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier" which we sang at every meeting, not because we liked it, but because it was on the song sheet.

Our earlier dinners were held at the "Sylvan"

in Hastings Street, where we were required to supply stewards on a roster basis. I remember one evening, as a nervous steward, spilling a bowl of soup over Peter Dark's new suit and lamenting the cost of dry cleaning!

We were keen!

Just after the five minute break one evening, we witnessed perhaps the most colossal feat the world has ever known — the speeding through the heavens of the first man-made object in space, the Russian satellite, Sputnik I. I became annoyed with the members because they delayed their return to the meeting for 15 more minutes just because of Sputnik.

Conditions were a bit tougher then.

One night a storm lashed down upon the town and the roof of the Sylvan was no match for the fury of the torrent.

A great stream of water poured into the room which was soon awash. However, one enterprising member found an empty ice cream churn and placed it under the torrent.

So the meeting proceeded to the accompaniment of this awful din with the occasional rising of the detail to remove and empty the can!

I remember also the balls, the conventions, the five minute acts, the sports and picnic days.

Keen rivalry marked our association with Port Macquarie. This is evident from the following excerpt from our Inaugural Dinner Programme, compiled by John O'dell.

With apologies to Ross Turnham, Charles Thurling and David Donovan, and for the last time I will read it:

"There is also a settlement at the mouth of the Hastings. This fishing village, named Port Macquarie, is a residual ghost town that remained after the convicts (who finally convinced the Governor that the place was really unfit for human habitation) left in disgust some time in the last century.

"Nowadays, the inhabitants of this place travel to Wauchope daily in order to find a job — except for a few die-hards who either go fishing or rob tourists and retired graziers.

"So heres' to Wauchope — long may it thrive!"



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Help for Ambulance...

## APEX ASSURES TWO-WAY RADIO SERVICE

The Apex Club of Wauchope last night decided to donate five hundred and twenty six dollars for the installation of two way radio for the Wauchope Ambulance Service.

This sum will add to an amount of \$505 raised by St. Clair & Leicht Pty. Ltd. in their Tangletowns competitions.

It is expected that there will now be sufficient money available to establish a low range base station and one mobile station at Wauchope.

The establishment of the two way radio stations at Wauchope will fit in with an overall plan to equip Port Macquarie and Wauchope services with two way radio. A major base station with a range of 50 miles is to be constructed at Port Macquarie.

As far as is known at the present time the Wauchope and Port Macquarie Ambulance are the only services in NSW not equipped with radio.

The officer in charge at Wauchope, Mr. L. Fawcett, said today that two way radio was a necessity for the service.

"Two way radio will make it possible for a car to be immediately diverted from a transport case of no great urgency to an accident or illness case requiring urgent attention," Mr. Fawcett said.

"It will be also possible for the Ambulance Officer to radio to base to organise emergency treatment at the hospital, such as blood transfusions.

"Time saved in this way could mean the difference between life and death."

Mr. Fawcett said Mr. Archie Rollands, of Birdwood has donated a pole for the transmitting aerial.

"The pole is over 100 feet long, and the only thing wrong is the problem of getting it to Wauchope," Mr. Fawcett said.



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