

## **APEX CLUBS**

**2 June 2004**

**The Hon. A.L. EVANS:** The Association of Apex Clubs was formed in Geelong, Victoria, in 1931 by three young architects who decided to form a club for fellowship in order to assist young men affected by the Depression. The badge consists of a triangle enclosing five rays of the rising sun, symbolising the rising generation of youth, with the name 'Apex' superimposed across the triangle. The base signifies citizenship, and the sides signify fellowship and service.

Clubs quickly formed in Australia in the 1930s, with Apex forming its first club in South Australia—the Adelaide Club—in 1936. Soon after clubs were established at Glenelg, Port Adelaide, Gawler, Unley, Whyalla and Port Pirie. Today Apex boasts 44 clubs throughout the state. In 1990, women joined Apex and the retirement age was lifted from 40 to 45 years. Apex clubs are involved in many activities throughout their local community: many have adopted a station from TransAdelaide and many a playground bears the name Apex Park in many rural South Australian towns. Over the years, considerable work has been devoted to repairing and repainting buildings at Minda Home and Townsend House; and countless backyards have been cleaned up for those less fortunate.

Over and above what an Apexian does at club level, members are also involved in activities at both state and national level. Currently, at a state level, Apex is actively involved in Camp Quality, a non-profit organisation that provides high quality recreational activities and memorable moments for children living with cancer. Also, all clubs are asked to participate in a car rally over the Labour Day weekend in October each year. A few clubs get together and organise the three day event, and money raised from sponsorship or donations is used to send a group of Camp Quality children to the Apex Ski Chalet in the Australian Capital Territory. The event has been held for the past

three years, and each year Apex is very proud to boast that it raises \$30 000 for a camp.

Also, Apex South Australia presently is preparing to send a working party consisting of two optometrists and six volunteers to Timor to prescribe and distribute some of the 18 000 old spectacles it has collected over the past 18 months. The spectacles, once collected, are sent to Yatala Labour Prison for the inmates to classify their prescription and tag them. They are then packed and transported to Timor. To help make this an even bigger project, the Adelaide Women's and Children's Hospital has donated surplus medical and surgical equipment for use at the local hospital. International relations is the fourth ideal of Apex, and this project will truly fulfil that ideal.

The current state service scheme is the Twin Loss Awareness program, which is the distribution of counselling material for medical staff to use as a resource in the event of a baby's dying in a multiple birth situation. All maternity hospitals in South Australia have been given a Twin Loss Kit by their local Apex club. This scheme was the winner of the 2003 Premier's Community Service Encouragement Award, and it is the intent of this state to take it to a national level.

Apex is not only about helping the community: it is also about self-development. It has been described as a very economical way of gaining management training and self-confidence. I am sure many members in the house today can lay testament to that.