

THE APEX FOUNDATION

ANNUAL REPORT
2010/11



website: www.apexfoundation.org.au





MISSION

The Apex Foundation's mission statement is to improve the quality of life of Australians who have special needs.

VISION

Our vision is that all Australians will have the opportunity to realise their potential and participate fully in our community.

GOALS

The Apex Foundation aims to:

- Exhibit leadership by identifying humanitarian initiatives to improve services to the community, and facilitate their implementation
- Work in harmony with the Association of Apex Clubs of Australia and its activities
- Contribute to material and effective research, activities and programs that promote social, economic and cultural values

NOTICE OF AGM

The 2010/11 Apex Foundation Annual General Meeting will be held at

Seminar Room
Level 8, Macquarie Bank
No 1, Martin Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Friday 18 November 2011 at 7:00pm
(Building access from 6:30pm)

All members of the Apex Foundation are invited to attend the 2010/2011 Annual General Meeting.

RSVP by Tuesday 1 November 2011 to
(02) 9253 7775 or info@apexfoundation.org.au

CONTACTS

Registered Office:

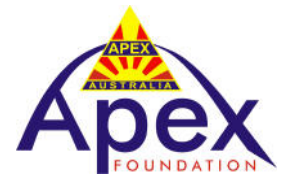
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Full financial reports are printed in a separate document



THE APEX FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

This year has seen the Apex Foundation consolidate its position as a prudent and sustainable entity. Our reputation as a strategically focused organisation has been a constant source of both confidence and care. During a year in which financial markets have shown volatility your Directors have achieved outcomes that have reflected both short and long term pathways to value - a strategic review, an updated investment mandate and favourable cost controls. It has been a year of solid growth in our corpus of funds.

The summer floods that impacted so harshly on Queensland and so many other parts of Australia remind all of us of the delicate balance between a profit centred society and a socially sustainable society. Strangers helped strangers, neighbours reconnected and communities were sobered by the heartfelt compassion of Australians from all walks of life. The Apex Foundation is one of many national organisations that responded to this set of events. However, each day every day, our efforts impact positively on those that need our help: disadvantaged youth, families in distress due to illness or disabilities, medical researchers searching for those elusive clues to breakthroughs towards tackling some of the key health issues of our times such as autism, melanoma, childhood cancer and cranio facial disfigurement.

In this year under review, I want to confirm with you that the Apex Foundation is built on solid foundations created through the excellent work of our predecessors. We have a heritage of eight decades of civic-minded volunteerism emanating from Apex Australia that is authentic in its character, history and nature. The Apex ideals and the recognised attributes of Apexians are interwoven with a story of dependable decency, financial probity and progressive innovation. We have kept the values and ideals that have sustained us whilst being open to new ideas and processes.

The Apex Foundation 2010/11 year of operations has seen an expansion in the number of trusts we manage and more funds in our corpus. The physical assets of the Apex Foundation -

primarily the Apex Magic Castle known as The Chalet in the Snowy Mountains and Shoalhaven Heads Apex Cottages for Kids known as The Shack on the picture perfect NSW Shoalhaven coast - have benefited from high quality and committed management committees that have assisted with the many tasks needed to maintain the attractiveness of these valued facilities for their many clients who are underprivileged and in need of our support.

Our method of ensuring as many Australians know, understand and appreciate the significance of the Apex Foundation's work is to utilise a multi-media communication strategy that has seen higher usage of our website and more digital technology in our interface with members. We have continued to ensure that both members of the company and its supporters have effective and user friendly contact choices. The Apex family is widespread and comprises many of our most active citizens - valued pioneers in Australia's burgeoning volunteer story.

A special highlight during the year was the inception of two new and significant trusts. These were formed under the auspices of the Civilian Widows – Queensland and Civilian Widows - Western Australia. We have a long and respected relationship with the Civilian Widow organizations and are delighted to be now administering these substantial trusts on their behalf.

In 2010, the Board of the Apex Foundation endorsed a strategic review to assess the effectiveness of our trust structures currently in place. This will result in optimising the operational outcomes achieved by the trusts to meet contemporary requirements.

During the year we finalised the merger of the secretariat offices of Apex Australia and the Apex Foundation into our Sydney base. This joint secretariat is generating cost savings and work synergies for both organisations combined with a higher level of member services.

THE APEX FOUNDATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT (CON'T)

The Apex Foundation is indebted to its Patrons and Governors for their interest and commitment to our organisation. Likewise, the thanks of the Apex Foundation is extended to the Board, in particular to the Executive Committee comprising Stephen Bigarelli Deputy Chairman, Mike Fitze Company Secretary and newly appointed Brian Powe Treasurer, who was elected to the position of Treasurer and as a Director of the company following the resignation of Director Brendan Maier. May I take this opportunity to thank Brendan for his contribution to the company during his tenure on the board. I also thank CEO Noel Hadjimichael and staff members Administration Manager Braddley Hayes and Accountant Margo Johnstone for their commitment to the values of our organisation.

As I said last year, the Apex Foundation has a very clear sense of purpose – to serve with efficiency and effectiveness the objectives of the trusts we manage. It is work that is both worthwhile and rewarding. Your part in this venture, as a member or supporter, is vital for its continuation. Thankyou for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Jim Hughes - Chairman
Apex Foundation Ltd

DIRECTORS 2010/11

The members of the Board and their responsibilities:

JIM HUGHES

- Chairman
- Apex Management Services Committee
- Board Audit & Risk Committee
- Corporate Governance Committee
- Investment Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Apex Association Liaison
- Patron Liaison
- Children's Cancer Leukaemia Trust

BRIAN POWE

- Treasurer
- Chair Board Audit & Risk Committee
- Apex Management Services Committee
- Investment Committee
- General Trust
- Reserves Trust
- Grants and Taxation
- External Company Membership

CHRIS MORAHAN

- National Vice President - Apex Australia
- Director
- Apex Liaison
- Integration
- IT Systems

STEPHEN BIGARELLI

- Deputy Chairman
- Apex Management Services Committee
- Board Audit and Risk Committee
- Investment Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Autism Trust
- Diabetes Trust

JEFF HARDIE

- National President - Apex Australia
- Director
- Apex Management Services Committee
- Apex Liaison
- General Trust

TONY WILSHIRE

- Director
- Investment Committee
- Fine Arts Trust
- Melanoma Trust
- Underprivileged Children's Trust (SHACK)

PHILIP PREGNELL

- Director
- Chair Investment Committee
- Destiny Youth Trust
- Apex Foundation Events

MIKE FITZE

- Company Secretary
- Chair Apex Management Services Committee
- Corporate Governance Committee
- Chair Remuneration Committee
- Underprivileged Children's Trust (Chalet)
- Insurance Programs

GRAHAM HENRY

- Director
- Legal and Constitutional
- Remuneration Committee
- Cranio Facial Trust
- Civilian Widows Trusts (News South Wales, Queensland and Western Australia)
- AON Liaison

BRENDAN MAIER (RESIGNED 14/12/2010)

- Director
- Legal and Constitutional
- Chair Corporate Governance Committee
- Remuneration Committee
- Diabetes Trust
- External Company Membership

OUR BOARD 2011/12



Jim Hughes



Stephen Bigarelli



Mike Fitze



Brian Powe



Graham Henry



Chris Morahan



Philip Pregnell



Tony Wilshire



Cameron Page

OUR ORGANISATION

“The Apex Foundation strives to improve the quality of life of Australians who have special needs.”

The Apex Foundation achieves this by managing various trusts essentially established by service schemes initiated by Apex Australia. A company limited by guarantee, the Apex Foundation has governance, management and allocation responsibilities over trusts and their grants programs. Grants are awarded on the basis of clear and transparent eligibility criteria. Choice of recipient is governed by the rules of each trust. Individuals, Apex Clubs, charitable institutions and world-class researchers have benefited from valuable assistance in past years. The Apex Foundation does not receive direct government funding - it remains an example of Australians helping other Australians in a spirit of good citizenship and community engagement. The Association of Apex Clubs maintains a strong and effective relationship with the Apex Foundation with its two most senior leaders being members of the Board and hundreds of past and present members being supporters.

BOARD, PATRONS AND GOVERNORS

“Making considered decisions is a crucial skill at every level.”

The strategic and management direction of the Apex Foundation is achieved by an honorary board of Directors that collectively make decisions in the best interests of the trusts.

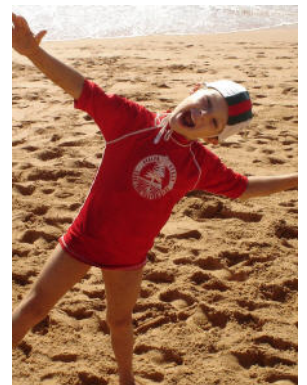
Under the Chairmanship of Jim Hughes, each Board Member is given direct portfolio responsibility for at least one of the trusts and all Directors participate in the formal decision-making processes regarding allocations. Current Patrons of the Apex Foundation are former Prime Minister the Hon John Howard AC and Emeritus Professor Dame Leonie Kramer AC DBE. Current Governors are sporting legends Sir Jack Brabham OBE and Mr Wayne Gardner AM.

THE APEX FOUNDATION REFLECTIONS ON 2010/11



The Shoalhaven Heads Cottage for Kids (The Shack) celebrated its twentieth anniversary in 2010-2011. Thousands of children from families facing significant health, social or relationship issues have been the beneficiaries of this innovative facility. Kristine Vincent (pictured) and her husband Ray and the local management committee are to be congratulated for their years of sterling service and commitment to those families seeking well deserved respite and relaxation.

For over two decades the Apex Foundation has valued its strong relationship with the Children's Cancer Institute of Australia (now more commonly known as the Lowy Cancer Research Centre). The financial support given each year supports a myriad of programs and encourages researchers to seek fresh answers to complex medical conditions. However the personal stories of those challenged by the scourge of childhood cancer bears repeating. Hunter Jelichich - a cancer survivor - gives the Apex Foundation hope that our funding support is making a difference. Hunter (pictured) was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia at age 8. Although he suffered bone deterioration in his lower limbs as a side effect of his treatment, this has not been a deterrent for brave little Hunter, who is now 10 years of age and is delighted to be back at school enjoying the companionship of his friends. Members and supporters of the Apex Foundation are strongly aware that behind every laboratory research project grant is an individual, a family and a community seeking answers to complex and often life-defining issues.



The Apex Foundation was delighted to select Kang Wang from Brisbane (pictured) as the 2010 competitor from Australia for the Hans Gabor Belvedere International singing competition held in Vienna, Austria. Kang's life ambition is to be a world class vocalist. It was Kang's first opportunity to travel to Europe, experience classical performances at the Vienna National Opera House and compete against a high standard of vocalists from across the globe. Attaining semi-finalist status, Kang was thrilled to be able to work with marvellous voice coaches and gained invaluable confidence to seek a return to the competition in 2011. Giving talented young Australians a pathway to world class cultural opportunities is an example of the Apex

Foundation's commitment to youth development.

THE APEX FOUNDATION

REFLECTIONS ON 2010/11 (CON'T)



Following a visit to the Magic Castle, the Apex Foundation's excellent facility in the Snowy Mountains, a prison chaplain from regional News South Wales was moved to write:

"We had a brilliant time at the Magic Castle! There were four families that stayed this year and we are planning on helping even more families in the same position, when we book next year. The children of the families have been traumatised by domestic violence. This time together gave all of us a great opportunity to be able to bond with each other and more importantly, created an environment where these kids were able to form their own network and friendships. Thank you once again for the wonderful opportunity and retreat. We all enjoyed the beautiful setting and accommodation."

For many years the Apex Foundation has provided supplementary funding to researchers associated with the Olga Tennison Autism Research Centre located in Melbourne. It was fabulous to be advised that all honours level research students at the centre successfully passed their exams with one of them, Emma Baker, receiving the Outstanding Fourth Year Thesis Award for the best thesis in the School of Psychological Science. Supervisor Associate Professor Amanda Richdale (pictured), a long-time collaborator with the Apex Foundation, was thrilled at this significant achievement.



The Apex Foundation has continued in 2010-2011 to assist the Melanoma Institute of Australia to enable it to commence a two year pilot study involving seventy-five patients to assess the feasibility, safety and toxicity of oral vitamin D over the course of an open trial. Patients, aged 18-79, will be drawn from a population of individuals who have completed surgical treatment for their cutaneous melanoma within a ninety day time period window who are considered at high risk of recurrence. Two thirds of the patients will receive active treatment and one third placebo. The pilot study is one located at the Poche Centre, North Sydney (pictured) and at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital Sydney. The Apex

Foundation is proud to be an active supporter of the Melanoma Institute.

SUPPORTERS

- Apex Clubs of Australia
- AON Risk Services
- Management Committees of the Apex Children's Chalet and Shoalhaven Heads Apex Cottages for Kids
- Association of Civilian Widows - News South Wales
- Association of Civilian Widows - Queensland
- Association of Civilian Widows - Western Australia
- Colin Biggers & Paisley Solicitors
- Steadfast Group Limited
- Innish Consulting Services
- LBW & Partners
- Patrons: Emeritus Professor Dame Leonie Kramer AC DBE, Honourable John Howard AC
- Governors: Sir Jack Brabham AO OBE and Wayne Gardner AM



Staff: Noel Hadjimichael, Margo Johnstone and Braddley Hayes

The Apex Foundation acknowledges the use of photos provided by our beneficiaries in the production of this report.

AON Australia generously sponsors the secretariat office of The Apex Foundation.



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