

PRESIDENT

Kevin Gough
326 McCauley Street
Hay, NSW 2711
Phone: (02) 69934860
Mobile: 0409 745 437

SECRETARY/TREASURER

Ruth Carmichael
11 Terrigal Street
Mornington, VIC 3931
Phone: (03) 5975 7813
Mobile: 0409 942 153

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Mary Purtill
Reen Hillman
Wendy Morrison
Graeme Hayes
Julie Keatley
Bernie Greely
Sue Grant
John Gullock
Carmel McCartin



ALDECC

2005



AREA REPRESENTATIVES:

KEVIN LAMB
 (08) 8952 5616

LISA & PHIL HANSEN
 (08) 9490 7190

GREG OAKLEY
 (08) 8376 8767

GEOFF JAMIESON
 (07) 4098 8308

FAYE NAYLER & ELWYN HOLOHAN
 (07) 3379 4291

BRYN & REEN HILLMAN
 (02) 4294 3252

JIM HEYWARD
 (03) 6326 6262

Annual Subscription: \$15 (Couple \$20) Due: 1 Feb,
Joining Fee: \$5 (plus Annual Subscription of \$15)

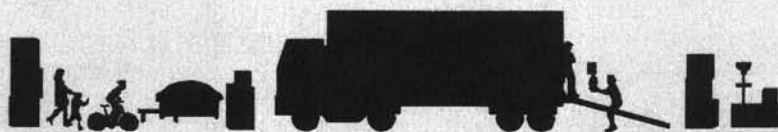
Membership is open to extended tour coach crew employed for a period not less than 12 months full time
 (full time casual for hosties and cooks), on tours of a duration of 7 days or more
 (5 days or more for Tasmanian crew).

ARE YOUR ALDECC SUBS NOW DUE??



If at the time of preparing this newsletter, our records indicate you to be unfinancial, an X will appear in this square.

Orange is one year overdue. Green is two years overdue.



CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?
 Please advise our Secretary of the change

LOGO ITEMS



Iron-on Transfers - Black or White	No charge
Transfers and Stickers	No charge
Replacement Badges	\$5.00
ALDECC Keyrings	\$5.00



Please place your orders with the Secretary
 Cheques or money orders payable to ALDECC Inc.

Dear Member,

It's been some time since we heard from you, and, indeed, it would seem that you've forgotten us.

Of course, we understand that sometimes 'things get busy' and smaller things get put to one side.... Before you know it.... You're way behind !

We hope that's what has happened to your Aldecc membership, and we do understand. Life seems so hectic nowadays.

For those of you that have fallen into arrears by more than one year the committee has decided that rather than just 'strike you off', an amnesty has been declared. This means that if you pay the current annual subscription of \$15 (or \$20 if you're a couple) then your membership will be ensured and you will continue to receive newsletters etc.

We don't wish to lose touch with you, you're important to us. Let's face it... those days on the road were such a dynamic part of our lives and in many ways helped to make us what we are today.

So, please, let us know what you would like to do with your membership... either cancel or renew. A short note or a phone call to the secretary would be appreciated. Her details are on the back page of the current newsletter.

Please don't be a stranger...

Sincerely,

Kevin Gough (President)

Reunion News

From the Secretary

Hi Everybody !!

Another very successful reunion has come and gone. Although smaller in numbers, it still had plenty of quality time with colleagues in the industry.

31 members from Victoria, 16 from NSW, 3 each from S.A., NT and Qld and 1 from Tassie!! (keep comin' Jimmy!)

A few regulars were unable to attend this year due to either work commitments or special family functions. We missed their company, but were delighted to welcome new member Bob Clarke (Terry's' brother) from NSW; and folk like Trevor Duffy who traveled from "the Alice"... its only taken him 26 years to get to a reunion, and thank goodness Kevin Lamb convinced him he would have a good time !! Rocky made it down also, plus the Sternbergs and Jo Wigg from S.A; Elaine (former cook with) John Barnett and Andrew West from Qld. We really appreciate the superb effort put in by folk from so far away.

Not forgetting folk further out in country Victoria and NSW who make it their priority to attend each year.... Some have even been known to come twice in the same year!!!

Change of management at the resort meant that a few of the guests suddenly found themselves back in the kitchen washing dishes!!! I must be more astute when finalizing prices for meals etc, as apparently one must stipulate cutlery and crockery or very cheap plastic is provided. If you want better then you must be prepared to wash up after meals... or costs are \$10 per head extra!! HHmmmmm!!!

Maybe we were a little spoilt last year or maybe they were the most obliging managers one could ever have the pleasure of meeting. Just wish they were still at the Great Aussie resort.

A few changes on the committee with Kevin Bryant, Garry Mathewson, Garry Higginson and Greg Reid all retiring from committee. Many thanks to them for their dedication to the task and particularly to Garry M for the work on the newsletter. All I had to do was 'lick, stick and post'!! Fortunately I have found a volunteer to help with the production... "The Phantom Editor". I'm sure the input from this person will "spark the campfire".

Many thanks for the vote of confidence from members at the AGM who elected me and 'Goughie' back into the roles of Secretary/treasurer and President, respectively. I'm sure I speak for Kevin also, when I say we will do our utmost to "to keep the motor running".

Many thanks also to Mr. Gough (senior) for making the garden furniture - won by Reen Hillman; Lance Grenda for the chopping block - won by Andrew West, Graeme Hayes for the coffee table - won by Trevor Duffy and Val Mack for the hiking stick with the intricate leatherwork - won by John Barnett. (I think Duffy and JB did a swap - something about extra luggage on the flight back to Alice Springs)

Last year the weather was so hot that it wiped out the golf game. Would you believe this year it was too wet!?!? I know the committee is a very able bunch, but I'm afraid weather control is not one of their strong points! Maybe a happy medium will be reached in 2006

I've seen a couple of folk with buggies at the last two reunions, so I'm thinking a round of 'buggy tennis' is not out of the question. (So charge up your batteries Faye & Keith) Do walking canes double as walking sticks? Or maybe "tiddly winks" with tablets into the tea cups. (Lorraine commented on how many had little piles of pills in front of them at breakfast).

With the new committee due to meet in April, plans will be put into motion to present a programme fit

for our members to enjoy for their special weekend next February.

Please forward any items of interest to us, little snippets of news or folk you've bumped into, of late - and by that I don't mean "touch parking"! What happened on the way home?? Anything interesting? Funny or ironic?

Thank you to all who supported the reunion this year, and we look forward to seeing you again, next year. There's always room and a welcome for more members to attend and the committee will do our very best to see that a good time is had by all.

Until the next newsletter.... I wish you all good health and safe travel.

Cheerio...

Ruth

P.S. We're always looking for bits and pieces to add as reading material for our newsletters. Please, if you hear or see anything of interest, just drop me a line (or ring a committee member).

And for those who can handle emails, our address is

aldecc@bigpond.com.au

REUNION TALES

From the
reporter...

It has been noted many times that each year we are all getting a little older and a little slower... Indeed, what we were able to do 26 years ago, we are now only able to think about fondly. And so... It has been noted that the last of the "party animals" retired to bed earlier than ever.

After feeding the scraps from supper to the possums, the "stalwarts" were seen heading to bed at 1.50am. (Seen, not heard. they've even got quieter!)

On Saturday night it was 12.55am when they called it quits. Good Lord!! How

long will it be before everybody arrives at a reunion and just goes to bed???

And yes... we know that some of you blokes have been hoping for that for 26 years!

As has been reported, some 2 inches of rain had fallen in the district, the day before the reunion. This certainly made things soft and soggy. Which was a bonus for one lady....

Mary Purtill appeared at breakfast on Saturday morning with a bent and bruised nose, and scratch marks on her face. Further investigation

revealed that she had headed off to bed in the dark along the raised walkway, not realizing there were corners to turn. Apparently she had tumbled off the edge and finished face down in the mud.

Her kids tell us "she'd even left a skid mark from her nose".

She might have gone to bed earlier, but she was just as piddled as ever!

Was good to see Ray and Ros Brewer lounging outside their caravan at the reunion. Retirement and relaxation certainly sits well with them both, and neither of them looks a day older

than they did 26 years ago.

Mary & Alfie were last seen heading off towards the bush with an empty boot in their 4WD, and plenty of cash. Seems they were looking to "buy some junk" to take home. HmMMM... I know a few household sheds that are full of 'junk'.

The ever-reliable Lance Grenda produced yet another splendid chopping block for the raffle. One lady was overheard to remark "I hope Lance lives to 120, cos it'll take me that long to win one of those blocks". Keep 'em coming, Lance!!

Speaking of which... Andrew West, the lucky winner of the chopping block was

heard to say..."this is great! I'll be right for a few more reunions, once I take this home to the missus!" (Just keep in the good books, Andrew, and make sure your head aint on it!)

Joy Harry had some funny tales to tell about her trip 'on the Ghan'. If you remember... she was the lucky winner from the 25th reunion. Apparently she took her sister-in-law, who had never seen 'wildlife' before. Judging from some of the tales... Joy reckons that a lot of the wildlife was INSIDE the train! If you get the chance to catch up with Joy, you'll find it was an amusing trip!

Garry Mathewson provided the entertainment on Saturday night with

a viewing of the 10th anniversary video. Hard to believe that was 16 years ago, with all members in fancy dress....

Do you remember Elwyn dressed as the pope? Or Celwyn Curtis as a playboy bunny? His wife Claire was a pudding and Mary Meyer was a pumpkin! There were pimps and pooftas, princesses and prima donnas. And of course... that memorable concert where Deiter, Dub and Ross dressed as barrelinas, performing the Sugar Plum something or other. Bewdiful... till Deiter took a nosedive!!... Well worth dusting off and having another look!

News and Gossip.....

Sadly.....

It is with regret that we inform members of the passing of Neville Hood who was one of our early members. Neville will surely be remembered by all who knew him as a "true blue" bloke, and definitely a 'character' from the days on the road.

We extend our sympathies to his family.

Just for fun

Heard a story the other day about a female member who decided that life was passing her by, and that maybe it was time to get involved in a little 'risk taking'.

So, motorbike riding it was....

Unfortunately, *before* she had time to complete the lesson, she revved a little *too hard*, and the bike took off. And, yes, you guessed it..... Down she came in a screaming heap.

You see, she wasn't actually *sitting* on the bike... more like straddling it. So when the bike roared off, she tried to run with it between her thighs, to make it stop. And then she fell *over* it, causing multiple bruises and abrasions.

Spectators were very concerned about the lady who fell off her chair laughing, whilst our poor member lay bleeding in the dust.

"Was it a Harley?" "Was she dirt-bike racing?" "Did this happen on the road?" This reporter can hear you asking all these questions.

Would you believe the bike was a Pee Wee, in her sisters' backyard???

We have this advice for our member...

If you want "extreme sports"... stick to 2 spoons in your Milo !!

Some interesting thoughts for the Over 35's

People over 35 should be dead.....

According to today's regulators and bureaucrats those of us who were kids in the 40's, 50's, 60's or even maybe the early 70's probably shouldn't have survived.

Our baby cribs were covered with bright coloured lead-based paint.

We had no childproof lids on medicine bottles, doors or cabinets...

And when we rode our bikes, we had no helmets.

As children we would ride in cars with no seatbelts or airbags

Riding in the back of a utility on a warm day was always a special treat.

We drank water from the garden hose and not from a bottle (Horrors!)

We ate cakes, bread and butter and drank cold drinks with sugar in it... but...

We were never overweight because we were always outside playing.

We shared one soft drink with 4 friends from 1 bottle and nobody actually died from this.

We would spend hours building our go-carts out of scraps and then rode down the hill,

Only to find we forgot the brakes.

After running into the bushes a few times, we solved the problem.

We would leave home in the morning and play all day, as long as we were back when the streetlights came on. Nobody was able to reach us all day!

NO MOBILE PHONES !! Unthinkable.

We did not have Play stations, Nintendo, X-Boxes, no video games.

**No Foxtel, surround sound, personal cell phones, personal computers, or Internet
We had friends!!**

We went outside and found them!

We played cowboys and Indians and sometimes we would get hurt

We fell out of trees, got cut, broke bones and there were no lawsuits from these accidents

We had fights and punched each other, and got bruised and learned to get over it.

We rode bikes or walked to a friends home, went in and talked to them

Rugby, soccer, football had trials and not everybody made the team

Those who didn't had to learn to live with the disappointment.

Some students failed, and were held back. Tests weren't adjusted for any reason.

Our actions were our own - consequences were expected

The idea of a parent bailing us out of trouble with the law was unheard of... they actually sided with the law... Imagine that!

This generation has produced some of the best risk-takers, problem solvers and inventors

The past 50 years have been an explosion of innovations and new ideas.

We had freedom, failure, success and responsibility; we learned how to deal with it all.

And you're one of them ! Congratulations!!