

A. L. D. E. C. C.

Association of AUSTRALIAN LONG
DISTANCE EXPERIENCED COACH CREWS.



President: JOHN RYAN
24 St. Bernards Dve.,
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Secretary: AMY McCLAGISH 329577
23/147 Curzon St.,
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Committee: KEVIN BRYANT JOHN GULLOCK DOUG LEVER
MARGIE GOATES MARY KIRK GREG OAKLEY
MAX GOWER ROD LEITCH CARMEL PETRIE

Area Representatives:

N.S.W. GEOFF JOHNSON
c/- Truck & Bus Transportation,
64 Kippax St.,
Surry Hills, 2010

QLD. ERIC ASHENDEN
Lot 2 Tomlinson St.,
Caboolture, 4510

N.T. GEOFF JAMIESON
Box 832,
Alice Springs, 5750
(Available at Alice Springs Casino
Wed. to Sun. inclus. after 11 p.m.)

W.A. ALAN SMEDLEY
9 Westwell St.,
Beckenham, 6107

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: \$5.00 DATE DUE: FEB.4th. 1984.

JOINING FEE: \$5.00 plus annual subscription.

Membership application forms are available from all committee members and area representatives.

Membership is open to extended tour coach crew members employed for a period of not less than 12 months full time on tours which are of a duration of 7 days or more (or 5 days in the cases of Tasmanian coach crew members).

TRANSFERS & STICKERS	\$6.00
Replacement BADGES	\$3.50
T-SHIRTS	Sizes: 12 14 16 18 20 22 \$7.00
WINDCHEATERS	Sizes: 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 \$17.00
ZIP-UP JACKETS	Sizes: 12 14 16 18 20 22 24 \$22.00

Please place your orders with our secretary, making cheques payable to A.L.D.E.C.C. and including your size and postal address.

Delivery of windcheaters and jackets may take up to 6 weeks.

IF YOU INTEND TO CHANGE YOUR ADDRESS PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO NOTIFY THE SECRETARY.

***** DON'T FORGET! 1984 REUNION LAKE HUME FEB.3rd.-5th. *****

Dear Member,

No doubt you would have recently received a letter from John Dare concerning the proposed Ayers Rock reunion, which is now being planned to coincide with the opening of the new Yulara Village. Although we have not been able to ascertain exactly when this will be, we have learnt that a committee is to be formed in Alice Springs for the purpose of organizing the reunion and it has been suggested that those who were involved with the Rock prior to July 1973 (the centenary of the naming of Ayers Rock) be eligible to wear a special badge which will be made available.

Incidentally, we have heard that the new camp area at Yulara is now open for coaches, and rumour has it that the proprietors are some characters who once operated a park on the way into the Alice.

As promised in our last newsletter the following is a geographical breakdown of A.L.D.E.C.C.'s current financial membership of 212.

N.T.	Darwin	2	QLD.	Brisbane & Environs	14
	Alice Springs	5		Gold Coast	1
	Ayers Rock	3		North Qld.	3
		<u>10</u>			<u>18</u>
S.A.	Adelaide	4	N.S.W.	Sydney & Environs	13
	South-East S.A.	1		New England District	1
	Riverland	2		Wollongong & Environs	2
	Far North S.A.	8		Queanbeyan	6
		<u>15</u>		South-West N.S.W.	9
				Newcastle & Environs	4
W.A.	Perth & Environs	7			<u>35</u>
	South-West W.A.	2			
	North-West W.A.	1	A.C.T.		1
		<u>10</u>			
			VIC.	Melbourne & Environs	87
				South Gippsland	11
				North-East Vic.	12
				North-West Vic.	10
OVERSEAS	London	1		South-West Vic.	2
					<u>122</u>

There has apparently been some confusion as to when annual subscriptions to A.L.D.E.C.C. fall due. Subs should be paid prior to the association's Annual General Meeting, which to date has always been early in February each year. If a member does not get around to paying his or her subs until, say for example, four months after the A.G.M. in June, the following year's subs still fall due the following February and not 12 months from the date they were last paid.

A.L.D.E.C.C. affairs are otherwise progressing smoothly and members may be interested to know that for a number of months now our association has had the sum of \$5,000 invested in a 30 days term deposit account which has been returning around \$45 a month.

The committee will shortly be costing and planning the 1984 Lake Hume reunion, and one of our main objectives will be to keep the cost of the weekend to a minimum. To assist us in this regard we are appealing to the generosity of any A.L.D.E.C.C. members who may be in a position to donate the use of a coach or even supply a vehicle in return for operating costs or at discounted rates. At this stage we expect to require one coach ex Melbourne at 6 P.M. and one ex Sydney at around 4 P.M. on Friday Feb.3rd., with both departing Lake Hume for the return journey at approximately 2 P.M. on Sunday Feb.5th.

NEW MEMBERS.

I would like to welcome, on behalf of all A.L.D.E.C.C. members, the following new members to our association :-

Peter Biar	Melbourne
Norma Boag	Rhyll Vic.
Jock Clayton	Stawell Vic.
Caroline Edginton	London
Gail Jones	Darwin
Fred Kingston	Stawell Vic.
Peter Limb	Melbourne
Wendy Monument	Stawell Vic.
Ross Moore	Sydney
George McIntosh	Perth
Anne McDonnell	Hamilton Vic.
Ian Purtill	Deniliquin N.S.W.
Brian Russell	Tamworth N.S.W.

Caroline, incidentally, has the honour of being our first member to reside outside of Australia.

NEW TRANSFERS AND STICKERS.

New A.L.D.E.C.C. transfers and stickers will become available in approximately 4 weeks time. These will be priced at \$6.00 each and are similar to the original ones, except for the wording on them. Instead of 'I belong' at the top the words 'a member of' appear, and around the lower section of the A.L.D.E.C.C. logo are the words 'Australian Long Distance Experienced Coach Crews'.

DON'T BUGGER THE BUSH!

Some rather disturbing news to reach us is that many of the popular bush camp sites along the Stuart Hwy., between Port Augusta and Alice Springs, are becoming heavily littered with rubbish, some of which it would appear, has been left behind by coach parties. We assume of course that A.L.D.E.C.C. members, being experienced and professional operators, would not be guilty of any such offences. Rubbish disposal can admittedly be quite a problem. For example what do you do with your rubbish when the ground is too hard to bury it; the weather's too hot to carry it with you; the scrub around about is too dry to burn and anyway you don't have time because you want to be on the road in 15 minutes; and you have a mountain of stubbies and tinnies that the under 30s polished off the night before? If you are concerned about the problem, why not drop us a line with any unique or practical ideas you may have? Perhaps A.L.D.E.C.C. members can share some worthwhile suggestions and help do our bit to keep the bush natural.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE TRAPS?

Congratulations and best wishes to Keith and Donna Lenton, who have now moved to Townsville, on the birth of their second child - Kimberley.

Other Queensland news is that at one stage there, when the floods were at their peak, Alan Lever and John Barnett were operating 8 day tours of Augathella and also giving learn to swim lessons in their spare time. Both apparently reached terra firma after a 102 km. tow behind a Chamberlain tractor and are curious to know if this feat would establish a record. Perhaps anyone who can top this might care to contact us and set the record straight.

Speaking of records, Caroline Walsh and Doug Lever are claiming one with respect to being the first crew to have lost all their passengers in Central Australia. Both awoke one morning on a recent school tour to find that all their passengers had disappeared, together with their tents and luggage, from a camp site on the Oodnadatta Track. Whilst it would seem that this might have been some form of prank on behalf of the youngsters, the coach captain maintains that the cook's tucker brought about the mass disappearance. The cook could unfortunately not be contacted for

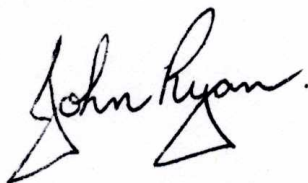
Doug Lever, by the way, took over the A.A.T. franchise in Canberra last month and we wish him all the best with this new venture.

Kevin Bryant also scored a contract recently, and by the time you receive this newsletter, will be back on the road again providing coach transport for those involved with the filming of Slim Dusty's life story. Now there's a team that should go places - K.B. and Slim! In fact they will be on the move, travelling to places such as Alice Springs, Mt. Isa, Charters Towers, Bowen, Hamilton Is. and back across to the Territory and an aboriginal station.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 40 YEARS AGO?

In August of 1943 Murray Valley Coaches acquired a new 27 passenger Reo, with Cheetham and Borwick coachwork, for their Adelaide - Mildura service. The vehicle was powered by a Gardner 5LW engine, and featured plate glass drop windows, roller shades and interior roof and side panels in light green artificial leather. As well as an Adelaide - Mildura service, the company was at the time also operating Mildura - Swan Hill, Mildura - Albury, Swan Hill - Albury and Albury - Corryong services. These services made it possible to depart Adelaide at 8.00 a.m. on a Saturday morning and arrive at Albury at 10.10 p.m. on Sunday after an overnight stop at Mildura.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Ryan". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "John Ryan".