

Dear Member,

Last month the Lake Hume Resort was the venue of yet another very successful annual general meeting and social get-together. The occasion was also a significant one, as not only was a constitution for our association accepted by the members present, but also a very special presentation was made to Faye Nayler and Elwyn Holohan in appreciation of many years of incomparable service and assistance to coach crews visiting Coober Pedy.

The many members who contributed to this fund but who were unable to attend Lake Hume would I am sure be interested to know that our presentation included a pair of gold-plated champagne flutes and tray, together with an exquisitely engraved mirror. The mirror featured a 12 metre air-conditioned Denning coach, complete in every detail from the Coober Pedy destination sign to the opal dust trailing from under the lazy axle. I feel sure both Elwyn and Faye would like me to pass on their heartfelt thanks to all who contributed. Also, much credit is due to Phil Hellyer and Greg Reid for their initiative and their successful fund raising organization.

Those members who are currently financial will find enclosed a copy of the new A.L.D.E.C.C. constitution. Unfinancial members are reminded that subscriptions fall due on the day prior to the A.G.M. which this year was February 5th. Also, according to the constitution, if subscriptions are not paid within 6 months of this date membership will be terminated. Reminder notices of overdue subscriptions will in future not be forwarded. Instead it is intended that this first newsletter for the year will serve as a reminder.

Many people are to be thanked for the success of the Lake Hume weekend, but the committee would especially like to thank John Thornley and his wife for their tireless work in helping to make the occasion so enjoyable for all. We are also indebted to Australian Pacific Tours who declined to accept payment for the provision of a coach to transport members between Melbourne and the Lake Hume Resort. In his letter to the association, Mr. John Burton indicated that his company would prefer to see A.L.D.E.C.C. use the money to further its own advancement.

So popular was the Lake Hume weekend that those present agreed to the location being the venue for the 1984 reunion. The date set aside for next year is Friday February 3rd. to Sunday February 5th. and planning for Lake Hume '84 has already commenced. If you have not yet attended one of our annual get-togethers, do yourself a favour and come along next year and find out what being a member of A.L.D.E.C.C. is all about. You can't say we didn't give you enough warning.

TRUCK AND BUS SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Geoff Johnson, editor-in-chief of Truck and Bus, has generously offered A.L.D.E.C.C. members the opportunity to be included in a block subscription scheme to his magazine. This subscription rate is \$10.00, as opposed to the regular subscription of \$20.00, and obviously represents good value for money. To join the block subscription send a cheque for \$10.00, payable to A.L.D.E.C.C., to our secretary, Amy McClagish, and please include your address for posting. Your monthly editions will be posted directly to you. Subscriptions will be accepted up until April 15th. when all those received will be forwarded to Truck and Bus.

WANTED!

Would any member knowing the whereabouts of Ray Scobie, last known address - Box 1836 Alice Springs, please contact Amy McClagish! We do not know his current address and are holding money owing to him.

WHAT'S HAPPENING 'ROUND THE TRAPS?

Wedding bells have almost been ringing incessantly lately and one could be excused for wondering if maybe the drought has triggered off some form of epidemic. Following the January wedding of Jane Lohm and the 'Mayor of Marla', Mr. Greg Oakley, Rene Jones and Bryn Hillman exchanged vows on the 19th. of February and at the time of typing one Rodney 'Hagar' Leitch had set a date for March 5th. with Miss Lorraine Hughes. On behalf of all A.L.D.E.C.C. members I would like to wish every one of them all the very best and many years of happiness together.

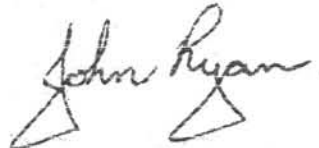
Your president is fortunate in being able to use this newsletter to collectively advise all those that he had promised to inform that one Sean Patrick Ryan arrived 3 days after the reunion on February 9th. Despite a touch of colic the young fella' is doing extra well compared with mum and dad.

If you have heard any news, gossip or scandal lately, drop us a line or contact our roving nation-wide reporter Margie Goates. We plan to have out another newsletter in two to three months time.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 40 YEARS AGO? ----- FROM THE HYSTERICAL DEPARTMENT.

Following the influx of allied troops and civilian work forces in the Northern Territory, Len Tuit commenced a mail service between Alice Springs and Larrimah in 1943. Shortly after, this became a passenger service and was extended to Darwin with an International semi-trailer, fitted with wooden seats, operating the run.

ALL THE BEST FOR THE COMING SEASON,



JOHN RYAN