

Dear Member,

Assuming that you have survived the Christmas festivities or that tour north into the wet season's monsoons, the A.L.D.E.C.C. committee would like to wish you a happy and a prosperous new year.

Once again the season is destined to get off to a great start with the annual A.L.D.E.C.C. reunion. The number of acceptances received to date indicates that we can expect the usual good attendance at Lake Hume next month.

Regrettably however, only 4 people have indicated that they would use coach transport from Sydney and consequently it has been decided not to charter a Sydney coach.

Members attending this year's reunion are reminded that, as the Aquatic Club at the Lake Hume Resort is now licenced, A.L.D.E.C.C. will not be able to provide beer and spirits for its members as in previous years. Therefore anyone intending to enjoy a drink outside of the Aquatic Club premises should treat the weekend as a B.Y.O. function. The coach travelling up from Melbourne will make a pub stop en route for bottle-shop purchases.

Anyone reaching Lake Hume prior to the arrival of the Melbourne coach should seek out Mary Kirk or Kevin Bryant who will be allocating the Parklands Units.

The reunion newsletter omitted to mention that, as well as tennis and swimming, golf facilities are also available at Lake Hume, and a number of members enjoyed a swing there last year.

If you are attending the reunion, but have not yet returned your acceptance, please do so as soon as possible as otherwise we will not be able to guarantee accomodation for you. We will be finalising numbers with the Lake Hume management very shortly now.

PROPOSED AMMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

The following proposals to ammend the constitution have been lodged with the secretary, in order that they may be considered at the A.G.M.

1. It is proposed that the existing section 8(d) be deleted and replaced with the following clause :-
'Committee members shall stand down in the following order :-
1985 Those members who have already served for 3 years or more.
1986 Those members who have already served for 2 years or more.
In subsequent years members shall stand down after serving their 2 year terms of office.'
2. It is proposed that the following clause be added to section 9 of the constitution becoming section 9(c).
'Election of president and secretary/treasurer shall always take place prior to the election of committee members, and unsuccessful candidates for election to the positions of president and secretary/treasurer may then be nominated for any vacant positions on the committee.'
3. It is proposed that the following clause also be added to section 9 of the constitution becoming section 9(d).
'Committee members may be nominated for the positions of president and secretary/treasurer and if elected nominations will then be called for to fill any positions vacated on the committee.'

AYERS ROCK REUNION.

An urgent request has been made to anyone who plans to attend the Ayers Rock Reunion, and who has not advised John Dare, to please do so as soon as possible. Reliable information gathered to date suggests that a very large number of people who are intending to be at the function have so far failed to make any bookings. To ensure the success of this reunion it is imperative that you complete and forward the application form or contact John Dare at P.O. Box 388. Alice Springs. 5750. It is after all only fair to those who

have laid the groundwork for a once in a lifetime event and who at present seem destined to have to cope with insurmountable problems regarding accomodation, catering, etc.

A large number of bookings have recently been received for Lance Grenda's coach which will be running express to Ayers Rock. There are however a number of seats available for anyone still considering the trip. The fare is \$50, payable to A.L.D.E.C.C., and should be forwarded to our secretary, Amy McClagish. It is expected that the coach will depart Melbourne at around 7.30 P.M. Thursday 8th March to arrive at the Rock on the Saturday morning. It will then return on the Monday morning to arrive back in Melbourne on the evening of Tuesday March 13th.

NEW MEMBERS.

A warm welcome is extended to the following people who have recently joined the A.L.D.E.C.C. ranks :-

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| Sue Baudinette | Melbourne |
| John Carter | Oxenford Qld. |
| Susan Collins | Melbourne |
| David Jackson | Parkes N.S.W. |
| Noelene McGan | Melbourne |
| Annabel Pennell | Melbourne |
| Ralph Sherry | Melbourne |
| Geoff Stephenson | Sydney |
| Marty Zinserling | Wangaratta Vic. |

We hasten to point out that the application from Mr. Carter, who claims to have driven for almost every coach company that ever appeared in the Yellow Pages, was only passed after very careful and lengthy consideration.

At present A.L.D.E.C.C. has 244 financial members.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS.

Those members who have already paid their subscriptions for 1984 will find enclosed an A.L.D.E.C.C. Membership Card. The membership card is a new idea which hopefully will put an end to some of the past confusion about whether one is financial or not and when subscriptions are due. Please retain your 1984 Membership Card as proof that you are a financial member of A.L.D.E.C.C. 1984 subs, by the way, fall due on February 4th.

At a recent meeting, the committee decided that any new members joining the association since 1st November 1983 be exempt from paying a subscription fee for 1983. This means that they automatically become financial for 1984.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE COUNTRY?

At the time of preparing this newsletter a report came in from up north that Val Mack and Margie Goates were busy trying to find a route home. Apparently Wayne Allen and Rod Leitch had both been dispatched to assist. It appeared that they would all converge on a point very close to Marla Bore, where Greg Oakley reports 6 ft. of water across the road. The mind boggles at the thought of how many bottles it might take the gang to sort things out up there.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 40 YEARS AGO?

At the start of 1944 Murray Valley Coaches had a total length of routes greater than that of any other organization in Australia. Ten coaches, Beos with Gardner diesel engines, operated services stretching from Adelaide to Canberra. All direct lubricating oil filters on the Gardner engines were specially fitted with fine gauze screens to contend with the fine sand of the Murray Valley. The company's newest service, Albury to Canberra, was an 8 hour journey operating twice weekly.

Hoping to see you at Lake Hume,

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John Kuan