

March 84

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

Association of AUSTRALIAN LONG  
DISTANCE EXPERIENCED COACH CREWS.



President: JOHN RYAN  
24 St. Bernards Dve.,  
East Keilor, VIC. 3033

Secretary: AMY McCLAGISH  
23/147 Curzon St.,  
North Melbourne, VIC. 3051

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

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

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

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

TAS.    MIKE BOURKE  
R.S.D. Rocky Cape,  
7321

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 AND STICKERS		\$6.00
Replacement BADGES	Temporarily out of stock.	-----
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 HAVE CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO NOTIFY OUR SEC.

SUBSCRIPTION DUE?    If at the time of preparing this newsletter our records indicate that you are unfinancial, an X will appear in the square opposite



Dear Member,

Well, for the second year running Lake Hume served as the venue for yet another very enjoyable A.L.D.E.C.C. reunion. In all around 72 members plus their guests were in attendance over the weekend of February 3rd to 5th. Many travelled up in the Melbourne coach which had made an eventful departure - being struck up the exhaust pipe by a low-flying motor-bike. Many others came by private car, including Ross Brooks with his catamaran in tow; the Queanbeyan gang were transported by Doug Lever in his airporter and Geoff Taylor arrived by semi-trailer.

A plastered leg and wheel chair didn't keep away our secretary Amy McClagish, nor did crutches prevent Ralph Sherry from putting in an appearance. Actually, the early hours of Sunday morning probably saw many others wishing they had similar devices to support them as they struggled from the bar back to their units.

We are indebted to Bob Burrage who brought along a film about the dangers of L.P. gas which I am sure left many promising to show this fuel much more respect in the future. This film was followed, on the Saturday morning, by a John Cleese video showing how to deal with awkward customers, during which many instantly drew amusing parallels with past passengers.

The hot weather over the weekend attracted many to the water. Val Mack, in fact, was so anxious to take the plunge that he neglected to first remove his sunglasses and hearing aid. Carmel Petrie also took the plunge, but fully clothed and a little less enthusiastically. Geoff Jamieson relaxed after a flight down from the Alice with a lengthy session in the spa pool, and John Gullock, Jim Heyward and Peter Rebbechi, to mention a few, were spotted amongst all the other kids enjoying the giant water slide.

Many members were grateful for the opportunity to wish Joan & Ross Eldred 'bon voyage' as they departed early to catch their plane for a holiday in Vanuatu.

Later in the day, over dinner in the Aquatic Club, Ivan Walkley recited 'An Ode to a Coach Captain' and as promised a copy of it has been included in this newsletter.

One of the big surprises on the weekend was Graham Hayes surfacing early enough on Sunday morning to make it to the A.G.M. Some new amendments to the constitution were passed at this Annual General Meeting and a copy of them has been included also. During the course of the meeting the members present were concerned to hear of reports that some A.L.D.E.C.C. members were endeavouring to use their membership to further their own business interests within the industry. All were in agreement that such actions should not be tolerated as they were not in keeping with the aims of the association. This prompted a new clause, section 6(b) as contained in the attached amendments, to be accepted as part of the constitution. Alterations and additions to sections 8 and 9 of the constitution were also agreed to in readiness for the 1985 A.G.M. during which elections are due to take place.

During our stay at Lake Hume a raffle was also held and this raised a total of \$208 which was forwarded to the Olympic Telethon Appeal. The weekend was a great success overall. Many were thrilled to see Normie Brown in attendance and also many of the regular 'old hands' such as Kevin Bryant, Margie Goates, Keith & Sue Grant, Lance Grenda and Keith Hindmarsh, to mention a few. We hope to see you also in 1985.

#### WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE COUNTRY?

We hear that Carmel Petrie recently wore a purple wig to Tullamarine Airport, in order to attract the attention of some visitors she was to meet in the busy international section, and her face almost matched its colour when she was confronted by a Mr. & Mrs. Greg Oakley who were about to depart for Zurich.

We also hear that 'Auntie' Faye has taken to writing in her retirement and has just completed some material with a bush ballads theme. When published we feel sure that A.L.D.E.C.C. will be able to advise its members as to where copies may be acquired.

By the time you receive this newsletter Greg Reid will be settling in as manager of the new Ford Resort in Alice Springs and we wish him all the best with his new appointment. Greg would be only too happy to have any A.L.D.E.C.C. members, who might be passing through town, drop in for a drink or two.

#### WHAT WAS HAPPENING 40 YEARS AGO?

In 1944 Russ Penfold's Greyhound Coaches was operating services which extended from Brisbane to Toowoomba and Tenterfield. The company's fleet consisted of around 28 buses and these were also used on substantial charter operations and also on special trips to country race meetings where it was often common to see as many as 20 Greyhound vehicles present.

A little further south another company, Kirkland Bros. of Evans Head, was operating a service from that town to Lismore via Woodburn and Coraki. This 100 min. trip was being run day and night.

#### THE LASSETER HIGHWAY.

The following is an extract from Road News which is a newsheet produced by the Australian Road Federation. It was passed on to us by Geoff Johnson and it may be of interest to many members who have travelled the old road to the Rock.

'The first known vehicle track to Ayers Rock was formed in the mid-1930s by Mr. Sid Stanes of Erldunda Station. He drove from what is now the junction of the Stuart Highway to the Rock, forming a rough track that became the line for the first graded road. This was a flat-bladed affair, about one and a half blades wide, full of potholes, twists and turns and quite impassable after a wet. Parts of the road became sink-holes and massive bogs, especially between the Stuart Highway and Mt. Ebenezer and in a treacherous spot between Ebenezer and Angas Downs.

In the early 1950s Len Tuit who founded "Tuit's Tours", used the same track to set up the first tourist camp at Ayers Rock. When he sold out to Ansett/Pioneer, the road gradually was improved. Its route still varied according to conditions but the section between Ayers Rock and Curtin Springs, which supplied water to campers at the Rock, became fairly definite.

During the 1960s there were two re-alignments followed by construction of the first properly formed road.'

#### 1984 REUNION GLASSES.

We have, left over from the Lake Hume Reunion, a number of 1984 commemorative reunion glasses which are on sale for \$3 each. These may be acquired from John Ryan but we request that purchasers arrange their own collection.

## "ODE TO A COACH CAPTAIN"

Somewhere between the innocence of boyhood, and the tranquility of retirement, you find a loveable character known as a Coach Captain. They come in various shapes, sizes, & colours, and can usually be found, inside of, on top of, underneath, or just hanging around a Coach, pulling, pushing, twisting, screwing, or adjusting something or other. If you ask what he is up to, you will either be told nothing, or, be given a very lengthy and detailed description of the function and workings of the item in question, followed by a rundown on the dubious ancestry of mechanics.

Coach Captains can also be found in the kitchen of all meal stops getting stuck into great heaps of food, discussing the road, and swapping yarns with the cook. If they are off duty, they'll be found sleeping in Motels, Hotels, Guest Houses, or at the local R.S.L. club exercising their right arm on the Poker Machines so it matches their left arm which gets overworked by constantly changing gears.

His pet hates are: Getting out of bed, heavy suitcases, rain, bad roads, fog, bright lights on cars, dull lights on his Coach, lady drivers, unfriendly passengers, city traffic, kids on bikes, flat tyres, hippies, passengers who keep opening windows, cans and rubbish on the floor, maxi skirts, timetables, and most of all, nobody to talk to on the overnight runs.

His likes are: Staying in bed, plenty of good food, cassette music, waitresses, friendly people, gallons of Coke, passengers that sing, mini skirts, days off, soft beds, R.S.L. clubs, pay days, fast coaches, expressways, telling jokes, Kings Cross Whispers, interstate truckies, bikinis, good air-conditioning on his coach, his family to accept his changing moods, records, and just to be able to relax in his own special way.

He will complain that his Coach doesn't run as well as it should, and that the mechanics couldn't fix a wheel-barrow, and can't understand why the boss doesn't buy a new one. But let anyone else try to condemn it, and he will come down upon them with all the force of "Cyclone Tracy". Even though he is sometimes wrong, he'll never admit it, and when he is right, he won't let you forget it. If you need a friend he is always there.

Should you ask if he had a good run, he'll say there were no problems, even though; he had a flat tyre in the rain, hit four kangaroos, two low flying owls, broke one windscreen, ran out of lights, had air-conditioning problems, found a kid locked in the rest room, and to top it off, somebody kicked over his last can of coke spilling it into his brief case.

He is usually looked upon as; a ten year old by his driving supervisor, a maniac by other motorists, a monster by kids, a speed demon looking for every bump by his passengers, a sadist by passengers using the rest room at the time of finding the bump, a wrecker by mechanics, and a villian by the general public.

Coach Captains generally let off steam between runs, and give the impression they are having a ball, but are very shy really and only let off steam to relax the tension of responsibility in a highly skilled job.

So it is (contrary to belief) safe to talk to him, he won't bite you or yell at you, he is human and loves company, and is not as tough as he looks, and,

He is your  
Coach Captain.

#### CASUAL EMPLOYMENT REGISTER.

A reminder that the register is still operating and we are starting to build up a record of people looking for work at certain times of the year and a list of operators looking for staff for the odd trip during the year. If you are interested contact Maree or John Ryan on 03 337 0916.

We have, by the way, news that Pat Morton requires a girl to live in at Victory Downs and help daughter Gaye with general motel work including cooking until September. Pat may be contacted in Adelaide on 08 389 4336.

#### HAVE YOU PAID YOUR 1984 SUBSCRIPTION?

Subscriptions for 1984 were due on February 4th. Please check the front page of this newsletter to see if our records indicate that you are currently unfinancial. Any payments or queries should be directed to our secretary Amy McClagish. The annual subscription remains at \$5.00 and any cheques should be made payable to A.L.D.E.C.C.

#### NEW MEMBERS.

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

John Ashwell	Toowoomba, Qld.
Laura Blobel	Coober Pedy, S.A.
Mike Bourke	Rocky Cape, Tas.
Robert Burradge	Queanbeyan, N.S.W.
Greville Cawood	Ayers Rock, N.T.
Christopher Dawes	Ayers Rock, N.T.
Patricia Dower	Alice Springs, N.T.
Jenny Ford	Perth.
Alan Franklin	Melbourne.
Rosemary Guy	Drysdale, Vic.
Laurie Kerger	Penguin, Tas.
Ian Lucas	Ayers Rock, N.T.
Max Thwaites	Sydney.

Mike Bourke and Laurie Kerger have incidentally become our first Tasmanian members and Mike will be our Tasmanian Area Representative.

#### CHANGED ADDRESSES.

The following members have apparently changed their address and we know not where they are. If you know, please advise our secretary, Amy.

Geoff Crosby	Trevor Duffy	David Robertson	William Velt
Jo-anne Wigg			

#### TRUCK AND BUS SUBSCRIPTIONS.

If you wish to renew your subscriptions to Truck & Bus, or take out a subscription for the first time, please forward your money to Amy McClagish before April 13th. Cheques should be made payable to A.L.D.E.C.C. and the subscription is ~~\$10.00~~ - pretty fair value when you consider that the normal rate is \$20.00. \$11.50

#### A.L.D.E.C.C. BADGES.

Owing to the recent influx of new members and to the heavy demand for replacement badges at Lake Hume our stock of A.L.D.E.C.C. badges has unfortunately been cleared out. Following a previous decision to change to a different badge manufacturer we regret to report that it may now be several weeks before new badges will be available.

AMENDMENTS AND ALTERATIONS TO THE A.L.D.E.C.C. CONSTITUTION.

ACCEPTED AT 1984 A.G.M.

- 6(b) It shall be the responsibility of all members not to attempt to use their A.L.D.E.C.C. membership to promote their business interests for personal gain.
- 8(d) (Replaces original clause 8(d).)  
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.
- 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.
- 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.