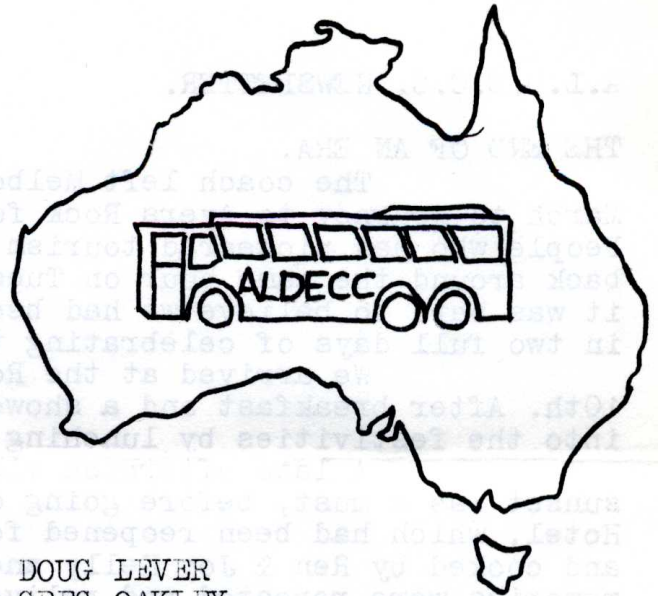


A. L. D. E. C. C.

Association of AUSTRALIAN LONG
DISTANCE EXPERIENCED COACH CREWS.



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

Secretary: AMY McCLAGISH
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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:	QLD.	ERIC ASHENDEN Lot 2 Tomlinson St., Caboolture, 4510
N.S.W. GEOFF JOHNSON c/- Truck & Bus Transportation, 64 Kippax St., Surry Hills, 2010	W.A.	ALAN SMEDLEY 9 Westwell St., Beckenham, 6107
N.T. GEOFF JAMIESON Box 832, Alice Springs, 5750 (Available at Alice Springs Casino Wed. to Sun. inclus. after 11 p.m.)	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.

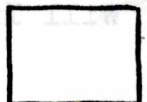
Membership is open to extended tour coach crew members employed for a period of not less than 12 months full time on tours which are of a duration of 7 days or more (or 5 days in the cases of Tasmanian coach crew members).

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 →



THE END OF AN ERA.

The coach left Melbourne about 8 P.M. on Thursday 8th March to journey to Ayers Rock for the reunion of the old pioneers. People who had pioneered tourism in the 1960's and 70's. We arrived back around the same hour on Tuesday 13th March. When it was all over it was hard to believe we had been to the Rock and back and taken in two full days of celebrating the "end of an era".

We arrived at the Rock in the A.M. of Saturday March 10th. After breakfast and a shower at the Red Sands we went straight into the festivities by lunching at Uluru Motel.

A late afternoon visit to "Sunset Strip" to view the sunset was a must, before going on to dinner at the old Boomerang Hotel, which had been reopened for this occasion. A feast was prepared and cooked by Ren & Joy Kelly and staff. While we ate and drank many memories were repeated and relived.

Then it was time for speeches. The Chief Minister, Paul Everingham officially declared the old pub open. Mention was made of many pioneers who had passed on and others who were unable to be present on the night. The floor was then cleared and dancing went on until 4 or 5 A.M. Motor bikes were driven around the floor as they were, all those years ago, the night the hotel was closed for what was thought forever.

Thanks to John Dare and Derek Roff who organized the weekend, the old place was rocking again as it had in the 60's & 70's. Was there a Prince Charming at the dance? Two of our Cook-Hosties came home minus a shoe each.

Next morning there were many sorry sights that straggled in for breakfast around the pool at the Red Sands. It was not hard to tell those who had celebrated well and long the night before.

A long leisurely lunch time was spent on Sunday at the Inland Motel.

The afternoon was filled with touring the awesome sight of the new village, Yulara. To those of us who had not seen it before it was hard to take in after the rough conditions that we had experienced at the old village during the last couple of decades. We toured the unfinished town, tucked behind sand hills, unseen from the bitumen road. We wondered at the supermarkets, the arcades and the multi storied hotel. We thought of the groups of tourists who would come here and never know what it was like in other days. We visited the newly opened Visitors Centre and had a drink at the Four Seasons Motel which is already operating.

That evening we once again visited the old Boomerang for the final closing down ceremony. Lance Rust, the original publican, was presented with the door of the old pub on which the words "The end of an era" were painted.

From there on to dinner at the Chalet. On the coach on the way, Faye Nayler who had written the words and music of a song dedicated to Uluru, endeavoured to teach it to us. As we sang, the haunting tune and nostalgic words caused many of us to brush a tear from our eyes. Here are the words of the song:-

FAREWELL ULURU.

The years have quickly passed
It's time for us to part
But memories we hold dear
Will linger in our hearts.

Desert winds are softly blowing
Over all that we once knew
And I feel my heart beat softly
As we say farewell Uluru.

For we're leaving behind fond memories
Of the friends and the good times we knew
Uluru the tears are falling
As we say farewell Uluru.

Next morning (Monday) it was up bright and early for our take off back to Melbourne. Some were not so bright, especially those who spent the early hours skinny dipping in the pool.

The trip home was uneventful. There is now many hundreds of miles of bitumen on the North-South Road. Within two years it will all be sealed. I am sure to most of us the good days were when roads were rivers of mud. Breakdowns happened every few miles. The cook prepared and cooked the meal on the side of the road on a mulga wood fire, while the driver improvised and repaired the damage. Even if we didn't enjoy them at the time, these were the experiences that were marched out time and again during the weekend and reminisced over.

The camaraderie and good fellowship was evident all the way up and back on the coach, that was generously put at our disposal by Lance Grenda. He and his co-drivers did a marvellous job transporting us to and from this history making event. It was estimated that 250 people were at the Rock to witness it.

----- Amy McClagish.

A.L.D.E.C.C. would like to thank John Dare and Derek Roff and congratulate them on the organization of a very successful Ayers Rock Reunion. Committee members who attended, report that the weekend's functions went off extremely well considering the number of people involved and the enormous amount of planning that would have been required. John has, incidentally, a number of souvenirs left over, including the following :-

Spoons (silver or 24 carat gold plated)	\$4
Drink Coasters (bronze or copper)	\$2
Car Stickers	\$1
Lapel Badges	\$4
Some T-shirts	\$10

Anyone interested can contact John Dare at 29 Nicker Cres., Alice Springs (P.O. Box 388, 5750). Phone 089 52 2350.

THE UNKNOWN A.L.D.E.C.C. MEMBER.

If you have travelled on the Northern Territory roads you would not think it unusual to have an aborigine step out in front of your vehicle and ask for petrol, etc. But when Rod Leitch was 34 km. south of Alice Springs and this happened to him he was amazed. The aborigine was wearing a gold and black T-shirt and across the front of it was the word "experienced". On arrival in Alice Rod visited our N.T. representative, Geoff Jamieson. When demanding details of this new member, Geoff immediately said that he only nominated members and that it was Kevin Bryant who actually sold the T-shirts. Geoff also remarked that Rod should have been ashamed of himself for leaving a fellow A.L.D.E.C.C. member on the side of the road without petrol. As yet Kevin Bryant has not been contacted to hear his side of the story.

----- Margie Goates.

WHAT WAS HAPPENING 40 YEARS AGO ?

Early in 1944 Ansett Roadways acquired the first of two 45 ft. semi-trailer buses. Named 'The Enterprise' it was a Reo 19D prime mover hauling a 45 passenger single axle trailer built by J.A. Lawton and Sons, Adelaide. The Reo was fitted with a 6 cylinder Gold Crown engine which developed 90 b.h.p. and was coupled to a 4 speed Timken gearbox and 2 speed rear axle. The trailer was connected by a quick release ball coupling protected by safety locks, with space provided for luggage within the body above the turntable. Features included an inter-telephonic communication system between hostess and driver, lined ceiling, half-bucket seats, loud speaker system, parcel racks and flush lighting. These vehicles were not to remain in the Ansett fleet for long however. Both were acquired by Murray Valley Coaches at the end of that same year.

NEW MEMBERS.

On behalf of all A.L.D.E.C.C. members we welcome the following new members to our association:-

Barry Edwards	Glencoe, N.S.W.
Keith Hall	Sunbury, Vic.
Michael Pearson	Ayers Rock, N.T.
Doug Petherick	Bute, S.A.
Kay Purvis	Cairns, Qld.
Barry Semmens	Murray Town, S.A.
Leonie Thornely	Albury, N.S.W.
Mal Todd	

CHANGED ADDRESSES.

If you know the current address of any of the following members would you please advise our secretary, Amy.

David Robertson Mal Todd William Velt

TRUCK AND BUS SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Many members who have taken out a subscription for Truck and Bus have failed to renew their subscriptions for 1984-85. As the payment of subscriptions is due to be finalised very soon, would those concerned please advise Amy as soon as possible as to whether or not they wish to continue their subscription. The subscription rate has now increased to \$11.50 but is still only a half of the regular rate which is now \$23.00.

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

A final reminder for a number of people that their A.L.D.E.C.C. subscriptions are still overdue. If in doubt please check the bottom of the front page of your newsletter.

STOP PRESS!

We hear that committee member Margie Goates has become a regular tourist these days. Apparently she shot a whole roll of film at the Rock, and that was after the reunion was over. Lucky for her that their were no photographers around on the Sunday night when some people were skinny dipping in the pool at the Red Sands.