

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

Association of AUSTRALIAN LONG
DISTANCE EXPERIENCED COACH CREWS.

Nov 86

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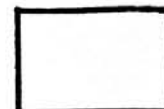
ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: \$5.00 DATE DUE: Feb 1st 1987
JOINING FEE: \$5.00 plus annual subscription.
Membership application forms are available from all committee members
and area representatives.
Membership is open to extended tour coach crew members employed for a
period of not less than twelve months 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		\$3.50
TEE SHIRTS	sizes; 12 14 16 18 20 22	\$8.00
WINDCHEATERS	sizes; 12 14 16 18 20 22 24	\$17.00
ZIP UP JACKETS	sizes; 12 14 16 18 20 22 24	\$25.00

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 this square



Dear Member,

Well, it's that time of year again - the invitation to the Annual ALDECC Reunion has arrived! And it's on time!!! No excuse for late replies this year!!!

The committee is pleased to announce that, although the cost of living has risen, the 1987 Reunion is only \$80 per person. The breakdown of this cost is as follows:

\$75 Meals and accommodation
\$5 Sundries (reunion glasses, printing, etc)

Also, once again, members who live in South Australia, Western Australia, Tasmania, Queensland and the Northern Territory will be able to attend the reunion Free Of Charge. Transport costs will of course be at the expense of the member.

As usual, a coach will be provided to transport people from Melbourne to the reunion. The return fare of \$8 is certainly good value in these days of rising fuel costs. This coach will be departing from the Gas and Fuel building in Flinders Street at 6.30p.m.

We would like to thank Centralian Coaches for providing this vehicle.

This year, provision has been made on the reply form for members to pay their annual subscriptions. This means that when you reply to the invitation (affirmative or negative) you can send your subs and save yourself, and the committee, a headache later on!

YOU ARE REMINDED THAT THE COST OF LIQUID REFRESHMENT IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE COST OF THE REUNION. YOU ARE ALSO REQUIRED TO BRING YOUR OWN TOWELS.

The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for 9.30am on the Sunday morning. Anyone wishing to propose ammendments to the constitution should make sure that their proposals reach the Secretary at least 14 days prior to the A.G.M.

The 1987 A.G.M. will also be time for elections as the following members are due to stand down from their positions on the committee:

Eric Blizzard (President)	Ray Higginson (Committee)
Carmel McCartin (Secretary)	Reen Hillman (Committee)
Amy McClagish (Committee)	John Ryan (Committee)
Mary Meyer (Committee)	

At a recent committee meeting it was decided to appoint MAX GOWER as the South Australia Representative. Max has been an ALDECC member since the formation of the association and has served on the committee. His address can be found on the information page and S.A. members, or members passing through, can be assured of Max's assistance whenever necessary.

As well as our gossip page, this edition also includes a thought provoking letter from our N.T.Rep, Geoff Jamieson, a sensational offer from Rod Baird in Cairns, and details of John Dare's venture in the Camel Cup.....

MEMBERS WHO HAVE PRE-SCHOOL CHILDREN AND NO BABYSITTERS BUT WOULD LIKE TO ATTEND THE REUNION, PLEASE CONTACT THE SECRETARY.

An Open Letter to All A.L.D.E.C.C. Members

During the twenty years I have been involved in the Coach Industry, I have often heard the comment, "There sure are alot of idiots driving Coaches these days", and not always in such polite terms, I might add.

I feel sure that the same comment was made about me when I did my first trip to Central Australia in 1966. By adding the last sentence, I do not intend to brag, but to show that I have spent quite some time in the Coach Industry and have gained some experience in this field.

The criticism levied at some Coach Captains is warranted, as they do not seem to have the interest of their passengers at heart. Little things like running their passengers into town on the morning of free days, especially when staying out of the town area. In my present position, I have often seen people walking into town, or waiting for a Courtesy Bus, when their Coach and Crew are going in the same direction to go shopping or to have the Coach serviced. On one occassion, a Coach actually drove past passengers who were walking into town without stopping to pick them up.

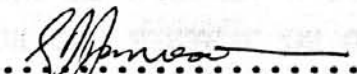
In my days on the road, we would always set the passengers down in the town in the morning and arrange a time to pick them up for a return to the Motel. This is just one of the little courtesies that seem to have gone by the board in recent years.

Of course, this criticism does not apply to all Coach Captains, and most have the interest of their passengers at heart all the time. To my way of thinking, the position of a Coach Captain, or for that matter all Coach Crews, should not just be a job and a way to make money, it should be a way of life with the main interest being to show Tourists around our great country. Remember that most passengers will not have been to the areas you are visiting and can feel quite lost if not shown around. A quick run through the main street on arrival in a town you are staying in can help passengers get their bearings.

I must add a thank you to the crews who have stayed at the Alice Travellers Village since we opened. All have acted in a manner befitting experienced Coach Crews. One crew, however, were very embarrassed when a passenger threw Greg REID into the pool on a very cold night shortly after we opened. The particular passenger was not seen for the rest of their stay.

Hoping to see you all at A.L.D.E.C.C. or in the Alice.

Regards


.....
Geoff JAMIESON
Northern Territory Representative
A.L.D.E.C.C.

GOSSIP.....

Recently heard about a tour that went 'missing' for a few days. Efforts by the Coach Captains' boss to find them proved to be fruitless and so, the Police in three states were put on alert. The tour eventually turned up and the driver is now known as 'Picasso'.

CONGRATULATIONS to Tony Mitrovick and his wife on the safe arrival of Simon Anthony, born in Adelaide last month.

CONGRATULATIONS also to Peter Severin of Curtin Springs Station on his Marriage to Margot, on October 25th. No doubt the new Mrs Severin, who hails from the U.S.A., will find life in the N.T. more than a little different.

ALDECC Historian, John Ryan, was recently looking through some early journals of the Bus and Coach Society of Victoria (B.C.S.V.) and came across an interesting article in the October 1971 edition. Titled - "Through Four States in Sixteen Days" part of this article reads:-

"B.C.S.V. member, John Milnes, for many years a 'truckie' (and a diesel man too), has been with Grendas for several months now, mainly driving school services and local charters. He recently completed his first long-distance assignment when he was rostered as Courier with Coach Captain Max Pryse on coach no.78, a petrol-engined Comair Bedford VAM to take a party of 35 pupils and 5 teachers from a Tasmanian High School on a 16 day tour through four states. John has returned loudly singing the praises of the 'Fantastic Machine', the petrol Bedford, which took them through all sorts of conditions without a hitch, and without any sign of mechanical trouble."

The article gives Johns' account of the trip to Shute Harbour via Wilpena, Broken Hill and Charleville and the return leg via Lightning Ridge and Parkes. Makes one wonder if John would still be eager to head off in the 'Beddie' again, or would the 'Jimmie' be a greater temptation????????

We hear that Spud Murphy (Pimba.S.A.) is recovering in hospital after suffering a stroke. We wish him a speedy recovery.

It has been rumoured that Judy Bradbury is engaged to be married. Efforts to contact Judy have been to no avail, and so confirmation of this report is still waiting.

Eric and Bernie Ashenden have been found!! Apparently, they were not lost- they hadn't left Caboolture! They say it's a L-O-N-G story but they never moved to Gayndah. However, they are now the owner-managers of the Motel Mediterranean in Mooloolabah, Qld, and Eric has turned into "an expert 'cookie' for breakfasts". ALDECC members can be assured of a hearty welcome when passing through.

Ian Gallagher has retired from the on road crew at Australian Pacific, to take a step(?) up in the world. He is now enjoying the ups and downs of working as a solo chopper pilot.



23/9/86

I've been a member of ALDECC since its origin but have been unable to attend a reunion yet, due to work commitments at that time of year. I gave the Long-Distance Road away almost two years ago and have moved to Cairns where "Fancy Nancy Reis (my Lover) and I have bought the Management Rights on some Holiday Units. I still drive a local coach on a part-time basis, just to keep the hand in.

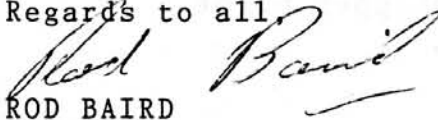
We have two blocks of units called THE PALMS and COCOS, situated at Trinity Beach, 20 Kilometres North of Cairns, on The Marlin Coast Cairns city doesn't have any beaches, so Trinity is very popular and is equipped with a Stinger (Box Jelly Fish for Territorians) proof enclosure, for safe swimming all year round.

A lot of ALDEC people are forced to take leave during the January to March period some of which may be interested in taking advantage of a 50% discount on all our tariffs for the period 24th January '87 till 21st March '87. This offer applies only to ALDECC members. They can of course be accompanied by non members for the same discount. All our units at THE PALMS and COCOS are modern, fully self-contained and handy to the beach, HOTEL, shops, and public transport.

For more details contact ROD BAIRD or NANCY REIS. Ph. (070) 576799.

Hope this information is of interest particularly to the hard working, under-paid, Coach Crews. You will probably all need a holiday after the '87 Reunion. Geoff Jamieson found it to be a pleasant change up here after the '86 Reunion.

Regards to all


ROD BAIRD

ALDECC NSW Rep. and infamous Truck and Bus lurkman, Geoff Johnson was in Alice Springs and Yulara recently on an assignment and was delighted to catch up with a few of his ALDECC mates. Among the assembled crowds at Sunset Strip on the day he was there, were Graham (Sudsy) Oehm, Margie Goates, Val Mack and Jeff Rotman. In addition to being "Mr. Buses" at Ayers Rock, Jeff also handles a lot of passenger and freight business for Ansett Airlines. At arrival and departure times Jeff is as busy as a one armed paperhanger with eczema, according to Geoff Johnson. Incidentally, how come Geoff gets these jobs that allow him to travel around The Centre staying such low cost accommodation as The Sheraton, despite the efforts of the FBT and Paul Keating?????????????

Kerrie Beggs from the Opal Cave, Alice Springs division, is currently on holidays and so Lorraine and Dieter Sternberg are 'manning the shop'. Is it true that they are pining for their dug-out and Dieter has already started tunnelling under the Sheraton?????

LOST- One coach motor in need of re-conditioning. Victorian members are asked to check their local railway station and if found - please return to John Dare in Alice Springs. Apparently it was railed to Melbourne to be re-conditioned and Vic-Rail have lost it in transit.

CONGRATULATIONS to Phil and Liz Bourke on the birth of their daughter, Genevieve, in Alice Springs last week.

Gerry Ryan (Vic) is to be ordained to the priesthood, in the order of the Christ the Priest congregation, on December 20th. Is it true that his sermons start with - 'on behalf of the manager, I would like to say welcome aboard'?

We hear that Gary Mathewson (Vic) is currently visiting China, AGAIN!!!! We would like to report that there is NO truth to the rumour that he is negotiating a deal for red uniforms for the crew at Centralian. However, we're not sure if he is bringing back an army of well-trained couriers.

If you've been watching your television recently, you've probably seen a very suntanned Ren Kelly doing a commercial at Ayers Rock. Noting that he is now advertising 'Kitten Car Polish' you can be forgiven for requesting a KITTEN COCKTAIL at the bar of the Ernest Giles Tavern. If the cocktail is not forthcoming, try asking to have your coach polished by the chap who says he 'wouldn't use anything else' !!!!

John Dare (Alice Springs) has recently been appointed Publicity Officer for the Camel Cup held in May each year. He advises that the big event in 1987 will be held on Saturday May 16th, and in 1988 - Saturday May 1st. Entry fees will be \$5 for adults and \$2 for children & aged pensioners. 1987 will see a new event at the races - The Coach Captains Camel Comedy, and with prizemoney of \$100 for the crew of the winning coach, it should certainly give some incentive for coach companies to participate. John has also informed us that while the races will finish at 5pm, the carnival will remain open until the fireworks display is over, at the end of the day, thus allowing visitors to spend the day at the festival without having to return to their camp-sites for tea. John has also asked that any comments, criticisms or suggestions from ALDECC members be sent to him. His phone number is 089 522350.

Who was the cook seen recently placing an advertisement in the Personal column of a large newspaper, looking for a male caucasian, 6' in height, with a good sense of humour and not too clean living ?????? If anyone can help with this matter, the secretary will be only too pleased to pass the message on to the lady concerned. Perhaps She should give up betting??
