

NOVEMBER 1988

Dear Member,

It must be getting close to Christmas, the invitation to the ALDECC reunion has arrived!! This year we hope to see the biggest roll-up ever, as we are celebrating our 10th anniversary. It really doesn't seem all that long ago since ALDECC was formed.

The committee have planned a few surprises for the weekend. To start with - our Anniversary Dinner is to be held on the Saturday evening and just to set a party mood, we ask that everyone dress in fancy costume. The theme for this is to be the letter P. This means that you are asked to dress as something starting with that letter; such as a prince, or a pumpkin, pineapple, pie, priest, person, the limit is your imagination. You could dress in a colour - pink, or purple or whatever. After dinner, a party has been arranged in the Hall and entertainment has been organized. Just what the entertainment is remains a secret...

On the Sunday morning, once again, we will hold our Annual General Meeting. At this meeting elections will be held for the positions of President; Secretary/Treasurer; and 5 committee members. Standing down are Ray Higginson, Carmel McCartin, Mary Meyer, Reen Hillman, Brian McCartin, Lyp Higginson and Wendy Kittelty. We ask that each member give some thought as to who you want to hold positions of office for your association.

The cost for the weekend is \$95.00. Of that cost \$86.00 is for meals and accommodation, and \$9.00 is for reunion expenses such as printing costs, reunion glasses etc. Once again the cost for the coach from Melbourne is only \$8.00 and you'll agree that you won't find cheaper transport anywhere. This year, the committee have decided to offer a discount of \$25.00 for members who live in S.A., N.T., T.A.S., W.A. or Qld. In past years we have offered bigger discounts, but because this reunion is our 10th anniversary, the committee have decided that any surplus cash should be put towards the celebrations.

Once again, the secretary would like to ask that replies for the reunion are sent back as SOON AS POSSIBLE. It is imperative that you send the money with your reply. Also, we would like to point out that the cost of \$95 is for the weekend and if you are only able to come for one night, you will still be charged for the

HELP! HELP! HELP! THE secretary is looking for a vehicle that is returning empty from Brisbane, sometime during the next month. The reunion glasses are ready for transportation, only one dozen boxes. If you can help, please contact the secretary. ,

We extend a very warm welcome to the following new members:

| | |
|-----------------|-----|
| Barry Webb | Tas |
| Faye Leary | " |
| Roy Hilder | " |
| Jan Gatenby | " |
| Blue Gatenby | " |
| Carmen Jeffs | " |
| Dale Redman | " |
| Marion Merickel | " |
| Barry Purton | " |
| Robert McGill | " |
| John Hart | VIC |
| Gail Dean | " |
| Bob Harris | " |

.....GOSSIP.....

We hear that Ian Purtil is interested in market gardening, particularly in the Mudgee area. We have reason to believe that he nose all about carrots!!

Recently when a group of ALDECC members were visiting Faye and Elwyn for Laidleys'Octoberfest', the two proprietors of the Exchange Hotel accompanied the group on a train to Expo. The day was warm and tiring, so naturally Faye and Elwyn missed the arranged meeting time, and travelled home alone. Part way home, Elwyn left the train briefly to check if they were on the right train for Ipswich, and was somewhat perturbed when the automatic doors slammed in her face, and the train departed without her. With her usual clear thinking, Elwyn phoned ahead to Ipswich station, asking them to intercept her "elderly charge" who was on the loose!!!!

Seven members of the committee were able to attend the weekend in Tassie. However, one committee member was most embarrassed when told by the flight attendant that she could only sit at the back of the plane, with her friends, after the pilot had adjusted the Ballast !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

One of the highlights of the Saturday evening get-together held in Tasmania was the 'Yarn-Spinning Competition'. Some of the funniest yarns ever heard by this reporter were told and the key character of many of the tales was none other than Geoff Shearing, (or HAVACHAT, as he is most commonly known). Well, HAVACHAT, who has been everything from gun-shearer to chief deck-hand on a submarine, told a most amusing tale of the time he was bicycle riding around the Apple Isle in a major race. So the story goes, he ran off the road and when the rescue party found him two days later, the back wheel of his bike was still spinning.....

New member Dale Redman (Trapper) appeared to be in state of confusion on the Friday evening. After spending nearly an hour searching for his spectacles, they were found on top of the cistern in the Ladies Toilet. He's still baffled as to how they got there!!

Heard that Allan Leary took a small group of coach crew on a jaunt from Devonport to Burnie, to visit a sick friend. There is absolutely NO TRUTH to the rumour that he threw one committee member out at Ulverstone because he couldn't stand the noise.' And there is NO TRUTH to the story that he refused to pick her up on the way back and that she had to hitchhike back to Devonport!! We believe that he is rather adverse to any sentence that starts " S'cuse me driver.....".

Members who attended early ALDECC reunions will be interested to note that our Tassie members are now wary of any cheese and biscuit platters, and that infamous 'dip' that is guaranteed to give anyone a 'woof'!! For those that don't understand, Ignorance is Bliss!!!!

.....GOSSIP.....

CONGRATULATIONS to Peter Goldsmith and Julie McTaggart' who were married some months ago.

We extend our sympathies to the family of Pat Morton (Victory Downs) on the recent passing of Colin.

Kevin Walmsley on a pushbike??? This unusual sight can be seen in the vicinity of Cairns Yacht Club. We believe it's only a small bike too, and the tyres look like they're under a great deal of pressure! Perhaps this could be a VERY late try for the Australian Cycling Team for the Seoul Olympics???

Brian "Goldie" Hofmeier has, after 25 years, retired from the position of coach captain. However he is still involved with the industry as he has taken over the position of National Sales Manager for McCafferty's coaches. We wish him luck in this new position and hope that he can negotiate all the bumps whilst driving his desk!!

Steve Cooper has sold his Post Office and returned to driving buses. It seems that postmarks from around the country have given him itchy feet.

Marge Lang has started a new career as a Real Estate Agent. Any members looking for property in the CAIRNS region, should get in touch with Marge. We hear that she sold her last house with a sales pitch that started like this: "the kitchen has a real sink, with running water, not buckets; and the roof doesn't blow away; you can stand up in the bins, er, I mean, bedroom to get dressed....."

Another Geoff Jamieson?? Another John Dare??? We have reason to believe that there are two chaps in the industry with those names. But we don't believe the line.. "it must have been the other one!"

Kerrie Beggs was spotted on the front page of the Alice Springs newspaper recently, surrounded by BABIES!! Hers???? We haven't heard the full story yet, but are endeavouring to find out.....

.....GOSSIP.....

Some guests at a hotel complained when checking out, that the toilet in their room had not worked for the whole length of their stay. The Hotel Concierge (who shall remain nameless) escorted the guests back to the room to check the problem. He slowly lifted the lid, not knowing what he would find, and flushed the toilet without a problem. The guests were stunned!! They had been in the hotel for 4 days and had made the trip from the 6th floor to the hotel foyer each time they wanted to use the toilet. Needless to say, they were rather embarrassed to find that the piece of paper across the lid meant that the 'loo' had been cleaned, and not, as they thought, out of order!!! This is a true story! Oh, and they weren't passengers from a tour either!!

Mary Meyer was visiting friends in the country recently and, being interested in all things rural, was inspecting the newly-built loading race and bale. "What's this gate for?" she asked. "well," came the reply "You put your head through and look around!" Like a lamb to the slaughter she did so, and found that she was stuck!! Her screams were only deafened by the shout of "brand the heifer!" coming from the amused locals.

Been to the Ettamogah Pub?? Well we know for a fact that Bernie Greely and Brian (Basher) Taylor have; because their photo is pinned on the wall for all to see. What were they doing?? You'll probably have to see for yourself!!! If you can't guess!!!!

Congratulations to Greg Oakley and Marla on reaching the 10 year milestone." and they said he'd never make it!!!.

Heard that Jeff Tucker is back on the road and was spotted at Ayers Rock with his shirt tucked in!!!!!!!

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