

AUSTRALIAN LONG DISTANCE EXPERIENCED
COACH CREWS INCORPORATED

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: \$10.00 DUE DATE 1st February 1990

JOINING FEE: \$5.00 (plus Annual Subscription of \$10 = \$15.00)

Membership application forms are available from all committee members and area representatives.

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

Transfers and Stickers	\$ 5.00
Replacement Badges	\$ 5.00
T. Shirts Sizes 12 14 16 18 20	\$10.00
Windcheaters Sizes 18 20 22 24	\$20.00
Postage for T. Shirts and Windcheaters	\$ 5.00

Please place your orders with the Secretary, making cheques or money orders payable to ALDECC Inc., including your size, postal address and colour preference for T.Shirts.

Delivery of Windcheaters may take up to six weeks.

IF YOU HAVE CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO NOTIFY OUR SECRETARY!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Truck and Bus subscriptions are now due and payable to ALDECC INC at \$11.50 annually.

SUBSCRIPTION DUE ??????????????????

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR ALDECC SUBS????

GOSSIP GOSSIP GOSSIP
***** ***** *****

Lorraine Sternberg (OPAL CAVE) has entered the MRS AUSTRALIA QUEST in aid of Underprivileged Children. We wish her well in her fund raising and the Quest.

The one and only "Big Bob" was spotted 'feeling his age' recently while on tour. He ran into a friend who placed an electric blanket in his sleeping bag!! Is he getting softer in his old age?!!!

Two of our most notorious members, Hazie and Mackie, were out William Creek way recently - shooting bunnies. It seems Val can't quite line up the bunnies too well as he shot the top clean off the stubbie Hazie was holding in his hand leaving him with only the stubbie holder!!!! Better shot next time, Mackie!!

With all the rain they have been having up north this year, who thought that anyone would make it to Birdsville for the races via Innamincka? Well done Greg and Gary!!!!!!

TASSIE W/END GOSSIP

***** It seems one certain mainlander (who hadn't been to Tas before) got lost on her way home from the dinner dance. It's not easy to find your way around Tassie, let alone a Motel!!

Looks like Carmel has taken up a new profession - match making. She was seen putting in a lot of work during her recent visit to Tassie for a few of the ALDECC Spinsters.

It's a long, expensive way to go for a new pair of runners, Little M, but to get so attached to your old ones that you have to retrieve them from a bin in the park???!!!!

Mike Bourke was holding a driver training course at Sandor's straight after the weekend. The mainlanders had not yet returned ^{to} the North Island so one young lady walked into the seminar with a pair of jocks (borrowed from Cel Curtis) and made the statement "Bourkie you left these in my room on Saturday night" - Believe it brought the house down!!!!

PROFILE

KEVIN BRYANT - Nickname K.B. - Melbourne Victoria

Married with 3 grown children

K.B. has been involved with buses for most of his working life. After leaving school he worked as an apprentice motor mechanic. From here it was 3 years at an international dealership in Dandenong and then onto Sandringham Bus Company where he became maintenance manager working mainly on early Bedfords.

Sandringham's first tour to Alice Springs was as subbies to Centralian in September 1967. When K.B. headed off in his trusty S.B. Bedford he didn't really know where Ayers Rock was, let alone how to get there and was quite convinced the couriers' directions were completely wrong when he turned onto a rough track just out of Port Augusta known as the South Road. The next year Sandringham bought a new Bedford VAM and to help pay the bills sent K.B. away again during holiday times.

Around this time he heard that Centralian was looking for 2 permanent Sub-Contractors and thought: "Why not, it would be a great way to see the country". In 1969 he was chosen along with Eric Blizzard and they flew to Adelaide to pick up their shiny new Freighter bodied Leylands. For the next 2 years he did mainly 23 day tours to Darwin.

Kevin recalls how in those days the term "Safari" tour was vastly different to today and pax who had booked "Safari" had a little red box under their seat in which they stored their own food which they then cooked for themselves each night on open fires.

In later years the Centralian coaches carried both Safari and Tenderfoot being catered for by a company employed cook. (Imagine being the cook and competing with the pax for space on the fire!) Seasons in those days ran from around Easter through to November with a tour at Christmas and February.

K.B. has fond memories of ex Redliner drivers John White, Kevin King and Mick Bourke (no relation to Tassie Mick) and how they were a great help in his early years operating in the outback. Mick once told him: "Ya can't drive out here if ya don't drink mate!" but decided after a while that it was a waste of time and money trying to convert him.

In January 1972 in Longreach Qld. K.B. had his worst ever experience on tour. This was having to tell 2 coach loads of pax that Centralian had gone broke and their tours were heading straight home. Three months later he was among other former staff at Centralian to form Camping Tours of Australia - later known as Centralian Staff.

One of his most memorable sights over the years was in March 1982 when Ayers Rock was deluged with around 15" of rain in just 3 days. The surrounding countryside was like an inland sea and the old road out to Curtain Springs like a river, except for a few miles of visible road surface and yet after all that rain the square patch of ground under the cook tent was just as rock hard and dry as the day before the rain came.

One of the most comical sights he remembers was witnessing the near demolition of a Pioneer coach trying to tow Keith Grant out of the Palmer River. He reckons had Sir Reg seen it he would have had them all locked up.

Those who travelled and worked with K.B. will recall how he was notorious for arriving in camp after dark. Some say it was due to the slowness of his beloved Leylands, he says he was simply protecting his job by showing his pax as much as possible of Australia in such a short period of time. His many stops to chase and catch lizards and other animals for his pax to view at close range were often one of the highlights, especially for those from overseas.

His passion for cream buns helped find every cake shop in Australia, infact it seemed he had reserved parking rights outside their doors (and still he din't put on weight!)

Kevin's departure from full time touring came in 1983 when he sold his 2 coaches to Koala Tours in Sydney. Today his main interest is in Mobile Production Facilities, a company which provides buses converted to mobile make up and wardrobe facilities to the film industry.

MAN'S BEST FRIEND

Usually everyone who has a dog either calls him Rover or some such name. I called mine "SEX". Well Sex is a very embarrassing name. One day I took Sex for a walk and he ran away from me. I spent hours looking for that dog. A policeman came along and asked me what I was doing in the alley at 4am. I said I was looking for Sex. My case comes up next Thursday.

One day I went to the Town Hall to get a Dog Licence for Sex. The clerk asked me what I wanted and I told him I wanted a licence for Sex. He said he would like to have one too. When I said "But this is a dog, he said he didn't care what she looked like. Then I said "You don't understand - I've had Sex since a two year old". He said I must have been a very strong boy!!

When I decided to get married, I told the minister that I wanted to have Sex at the wedding. He told me to wait until after the ceremony. I said "But Sex has played a big part in my life and my whole lifestyle revolves around Sex", he said he didn't want to hear about my personal life and would not marry us in his church. I told him every one coming to the wedding would enjoy having Sex there. The next day we were married by a Justice of the Peace. My family is barred from the church.

My wife and I took the dog along with us on the honeymoon. When I checked into the motel, I told the clerk I wanted a room for my wife and I, and a special room for Sex. The clerk said that every room in the motel is for Sex. Then I said, "You don't understand, Sex keeps me awake at night", and the clerk said, "Me too."

When my wife and I seperated, we went to court to fight for custody of the dog. I said "Your Honour, I had Sex before I was married." and the Judge said "Me too." When I told him that after I was married Sex had left me, he replied "Me too."

Well now I've been thrown in jail, been married, divorced and had more damn trouble with that dog than I had ever gambled on. Why, just the other day when I went for my first session with the psychiatrist, she asked me "What seems to be the trouble?" I replied "Well Sex died and left my life. It's like losing a best friend and it's so lonely." The doctor looked at me and said "Mister, you and I both know that Sex isn't a man's best friend, so get yourself a dog!!!!!!!!!!!!!!"

