

AUSTRALIAN LONG DISTANCE EXPERIENCED

COACH CREWS INCORPORATED

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Garry Hlgginson

Greg Reid

Mary Petrie

Joanne Wigg

Bernie Greely

Ian Gallacher

Barbara Conner

David Verity

John Blanch

AREA REPRESENTATIVES

N.S.W.	GEOFF JOHNSON	C/o Truck & Bus Transport 64 Kippax St., SURRY HILLS 2010
TAS.	MIKE BOURKE	P.O. Box 2002, ULVERSTONE 7315
N.T.	JOHN DARE	P.O. Box 388, ALICE SPRINGS 5750
S.A.	MAX GOWER	15 Aistrope Ave., MODBURY NTH 5092
NTH. QLD.	GEOFF JAMIESON	P.O. Box 200, PORT DOUGLAS 487±
QLD.	BRIAN HOFMEIER	53 Centenary Road, DAISY HILL 4127
W.A.	PETER GOLDSMITH	8 Farmview Place, BIBRA LAKE 6163

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: \$10.00 DUE DATE: 1st February 1992

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 & 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???

Hello Everyone,

Well this time last year I was going through the motions of settling into a new job having left my particular position in the coach industry after fourteen years. I reflected on those fourteen years recently as my twenty-one year old daughter, Kate, headed off on a Darwin trip as a hostess/cook. As with many tours now, the time was limited, costs were high, and appreciation by the pax sounded a little lacking. Nevertheless, Kate had a ball and she seemed to glow with enthusiasm whenever she spoke of her impressions of what our land really has to offer. It was also very heartening for me to hear that Kate was extended the wonderful hospitality and great fun offered by those still on and along the road - the same hospitality and fun I always enjoyed and often relied on to get me through!!!

My reflections also looked to the future as well as the past, as I enjoyed the exciting arrival of my second daughter, Hannah Rose, at the end of July. If Hannah ventured out as a hostess/cook (or driver!) at twenty-one years of age, what would the road, the industry, be like then, the year 2012? A similar question which would be intriguing to know the answer to, is where will ALDECC be in 2012?

Let's forget the mental gymnastics for now, and concentrate on one "definite" and that is ALDECC in 1991. I'm sure all of you have had a busy year in one way or another and feel a need for a bit of R and R, well, remember ALDECC thrives only because of you and will continue to only because of you, so, enjoy that rest and relaxation at our reunion?

WHERE: Valley Homestead, Ovens, Victoria.

WHEN: 31st January - 2nd February 1992.

PRICE: \$99.00 per person.

All the best for the remainder of the year - safe travels and I look forward to seeing you at the reunion to enjoy whatever R and R takes your fancy!

Cheers, Cel Curtis

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Now we're crawling out of the winter doldrums and into Spring please take note - those members with a star on their name are NOT currently financial members. This is the only notice unfinancial members will be receiving. Your names will be deleted if not paid.

Now to more pleasant things. Plans are well on the way for our 1992 reunion and it will be a real boomer.

We have had quite a few enquiries after the death of Norm Brown as to whether we are going to do something for his memory. The answer is no and this is at his own request. His only wish was for his friends to "have a rum" for him. Please don't send any money for this purpose.

Our sketch was done by Ray Walker in Brownie's memory. Thanks Ray.

Cheers

HIGGO

Higgo was born in Melbourne on 16 December 1929. He went to school in Yarrambat till Grade 8, left school and did an apprenticeship as a mechanic with Waltons and at Collingwood Technical School.

During this time Higgo was interested in Ballroom dancing and involved in the speedway. He was a ballroom dancing champion for which he has received several trophies.

At the age of approximately 19 Higgo joined Reids Bus Service (Melbourne) as a mechanic, it was during that time that he also obtained his bus licence and started driving local and day charters.

On one occasion during a day tour of the Dondengongs, Higgo was following a mud map on the floor (as there were no signs), but unfortunately he came to a fork in the road which wasn't on his map. Well now Higgo was really STUFFED.

Out of the corner of his eye, he noticed a toilet block so he decided to have a toilet stop, so he could figure out which way to go without the passengers knowing he was lost (As all good coach captains have done in the past).

He raced into the loo himself and noticed a guy standing there, he went up and told him that he was driving the bus and had come to a fork in the road and had no idea which way to go. The other guy just laughed and said "Don't ask me mate, I'm on the bus with you".

He worked at Reids for several years, mainly as a mechanic but also did day tours, he was still there during the visit of the Queen in 1954 and the Olympic Games in 1956.

He left Reids after one of the many arguments he had with Shirley Reid. (It was probably a marriage proposal but Higgo knocked her back) and got away from buses completely, he was working for Bruce Smalls (selling push bikes etc). But this was short lived because once you've got buses in your blood you can't keep away from them.

So he got back into buses and worked as a mechanic for Neeson's Bus Service in Brunswick looking after his fleet. This lasted approximately 4 years.

He left the bus industry again and went to work for Metropolitan Dairies in Broadmeadows as a mechanic on the trucks and also did a bit of driving, he worked here until the opportunity came up to buy his own bus on the Dawson Street Bus Service. This was approximately 1963/64 and in those days this bus service was multiple owned. In 1966 the TRB decided that all bus services were no longer able to be multiple owned.

So Higgo bought out the other operators and that was the start of Moonee Valley Bus Lines.

In 1970 he brought his first new Bedford coach and began doing tours to Central Australia as well as running his local service. He started his own Travel service in 1972 (Expo Adventure) and advanced from the Bedford to the Albion and finally into Domino or Austral Tourmasters. He drove tours throughout Australia for about 20 years but lately has semi retired off the road to 5 day tours to Canberra and Swan Hill.

He has four children of all whom are married and from them he has three grandchildren. He has made alot of friends in the bus business and tour business throughout Australia, and is probably even missed on the road today.

He was one of the pioneers of the centre and one of the originals in ALDECC, that night in Dandenong. Higgo has served on the committee and became president. He is a great man and a great father, he is loved by more than not.

We love you too Dad.

Franny & Garry Higgo

Quotation !!

The Government is my shepherd, therefore I need not work. It alloweth me to lie down on a good job. It leadeth me beside still factories. It destroyeth my initiative. It leadeth me in the path of parasite for politic's sake. Yea, though I walk through the Valley of Laziness and Deficit-spending, I will fear no evil, for the Government is with me. It prepareth an economic UTOPIA for me, by appropriating the earnings of my grandchildren. It filleth my head with false security. My inefficiency runneth over. Surely the Government shall care for me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in a fool's paradise eternally.

UNEMPLOYED ALDECC MEMBERS

Any Drivers or Cooks based in Melbourne or Adelaide looking for work on extended tours please send details and resume to:

The Manager
P.O. Box 674
CARLTON SOUTH 3053

All correspondence will be treated strictly confidential.

CENTRALIAN REUNION

The Centralian Reunion is to be held on Saturday 23rd November at the following address:

Geoff & Sue Stevenson
55 Barker Street
FLINDERS

Telephone: 059-890927. B.Y.O. from 12 noon. See you there.

FROM THE DIARY OF A COACH COOK

July 23rd

Dear Diary,

So much for good intentions. I had intended to write every day but it seems that I haven't had time. I've been too tired or too drunk at night to put pen to paper, and here we are, day 4 of this 30 day tour and we're stuck in the middle of the bush. This is what they call a "bush camp".

The passengers have settled in quite well and I think they might be having a good time, although you wouldn't know it from the looks of dismay on their faces when we stopped to camp for the night. The driver who I've decided to call Crater-face (he's a rather pimply faced, young thing; and quite conceited) stopped the bus, ~~oops~~ I mean the Coach, just off the road and said "Well folks, ~~this~~ looks a good place for a village".

So, we set up the tents and I got the dinner started. It's pretty hard to conserve water when you've got a gourmet dinner planned. Crater-face told me to wash the dishes in the water from the potatoes. Ugh!! I've never had bits of potato skin wrapped around my fingers in the dish-washing water before. I suppose it's good for the complexion, and Crater-face seems to know all the trick's (at least that's what his last cook did so he says).

After dinner which was finished under the lights powered by a generator we all sat around a blazing camp-fire and told stories. Crater-face told the most outrageous stories I have ever heard, and everybody seems to believe him! I don't think they all realised he had consumed copious amounts of alcohol by the time we got to story-telling.

Some of the ladies are rather worried about going to the toilet behind a tree. I only hope they remember to bury the paper, and everything else.

The stars are beautiful tonight. I never realised how many of them are out there. Well that's what I heard Crater-face telling one of the young uni-students sitting at his feet. He didn't see Jack from Mangalore and Bert from Werribee winking at each other.

They've all gone to bed now. Some of the young girls are still sitting by the fire. I can just hear the quiet murmur of their voices from here, in my bed in the luggage bin. There was a loud eruption from one of the tents before and then I could hear Ivy going crook at Bert. It's funny how the most intimate noises are magnified in the silence of the night.

Well diary, I'd better pen-off because my torch is getting a little dim. It's quite late and I've got an early start tomorrow. I don't know how Crater-face keeps going, he's very devoted to his job and even at THIS hour he's showing a couple of the girls some wild Dingo tracks out there in the bush.

GOSSIP

To add to congratulations to Cel and Clare on their daughter, Hannah, we must congratulate Graeme and Rosemary Treases on the birth of their daughter, Carrie.

News from Far North Queensland. The infamous Geoff Jamieson has found Cairns too cold to live. He has moved to Port Douglas and is living 2 minutes walk from the beach. Ah! What a life.

Rod Baird has got a boat doing daily crossings on the Daintree River. Believe it or not Kevin Warmsley and his wife Toni have both got their skippers licence and are working on the tour boats.

They are living in luxury on their own boat 'Gemeni' just up river from where they work.

Kevin Bryant and Alison Coop have been spied in the Port Douglas area. They are with the movie business working on a new movie called 'Sniper' for 7 or 8 weeks. What a life for some!

Our famous Ex Driver, John Gullock, has taken up permanent residence in Coober Pedy. He is working for the local council leaning on picks and shovels.

At a recent Fancy Dress Beach Party held in town, John arrived as a beach bum. One can only guess how John was dressed knowing his previous efforts at fancy dress evenings.

In July he was initiated into the Lions Club as a member of a very hard fund-raising club and the latest news is he is training to be a surveyer. John can add this to his long list of his credits to his life.

Don't forget if you have any gossip we would love to hear about it so that we can keep our members up to date.

Normie

Brown

