

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????

Hello members and welcome to winter!

Happily, I am able to pass on a little bit of pleasant news in amongst all the doom and gloom, recession climate.

As I confidently stated in the previous newsletter, I looked forward to working with a very capable committee, who in turn, would be working for you. Well I have not been disappointed as I am thrilled to report that we have found another GREAT Venue for the 1992 REUNION.

After a thorough and reasonably sober search we decided upon the:

VALLEY HOMESTEAD

situated at Ovens in North East Victoria. All you have to do is keep saving your dollar coins. 99 is all you need (i.e. \$99.00 per head). Circle the first weekend in February on your calendars and make sure you keep practising how to have a good time. I for one never stop practising!

Keep safe in your travels.

Your President
Cel Curtis

Hi everyone,

What a lot has happened since our last newsletter. Our new venue is now booked and we are very pleased with our choice.

For those who haven't heard Normie Brown died on Anzac Day, which is a sad loss to our industry. I'd like to thank the State Reps that tried so hard for me to get a notice in their State's papers. We didn't succeed in all States but at least we tried.

Many thanks to Margie Goates, Eric Blizzard and Ruth Bannon for their wonderful story on Normie. We all knew how hard it was to get a story from him let alone about him.

Below is the notice that we were able to get in some Australian papers.

Also I have had some help with information for our newsletter from members. As you can see it helps make an even more interesting newsletter for us.

Stars will appear on unfinancial members next newsletter, so please get your subs to me A.S.A.P.

Regards to all and look forward to our "Spring" newsletter.

Sue Grant
Secretary

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

BROWN — Normie, passed away Thurs., Apr 25, 1991. A true pioneer in tourism who loved the Australian Outback and its people. Sadly missed by all his mates in ALDECC

NORMIE BROWN - AUSTRALIAN

Normie was born in Brunswick in 1917. When he was 6 the family shifted to Red Hill. His father had a carrying business carting apples to the Victoria Market until tragedy struck and he was crushed to death at work. The family moved back to Brunswick. Normie hated the city and at the age of 18 bought a farm at Red Hill for £3,000. He loved the farm and it was here he married and raised four children. Disaster struck again when Normie was gored by a bull. The farm was leased out and the family had a Guest House at Flinders. Management of the farm was not good and Normie returned to build it up again. His health was suffering and the doctor told him to give it up, which he did. At school the stories of Burke & Wills, Eyre and Stuart was all Normie was interested in and he decided to see things for himself. It was then that Normie, his wife and daughter set off in their Combi-van. Attempts were made to get to Birdsville but Innaminika was as far as they could get. When his daughter had to commence school Normie thought his travelling was over but he saw an advertisement for a Courier with Centralian Tours and having by this time covered most of Australia he decided to "swap his knowledge for Centralian's money". His comment later was that they got the better deal. As Courier, Normie tried to get to Birdsville. One of these attempts was with the late Allan Stephens but still no luck. In 1972 Normie was a passenger on our coach to Innaminika and Birdsville. We were told we had to get him there. Luck was with us and after much digging, pushing and walking one of Normie's dreams came true - he was at Birdsville. Proudly Eric looked at Normie - who looked straight back and abused Eric, stating "that he had to walk most of the way and was six inches shorter than when he started the trip". In 1973 Normie joined us as Courier and we worked as a team until Christmas 1974. These were hard times but extremely happy ones as we travelled in our coach "Miss Denise" to virtually inaccessible places.

Normie continued on with Centralian Tours from 1975 until they eventually folded. His health deteriorated approximately 4½ years ago but this did not stop him travelling. He visited Faye Naylor's Hotel at Laidley to christen the Denning Bar. In April 1988 the old team got back together again and joined by Ruth and Val Mack set off to Longreach to help the Queen open the Stockmans Hall of Fame. Normie did the right thing and dressed formally for the occasion but flatly refused to wear socks. In 1989 a "back to Alice Springs and everywhere in between" with Lee Goldsmith brought back many memories.

Of course the ALDECC Reunion each year was an absolute must.

Normie was in a Nursing Home from November 1990 until his death on Anzac Day 1991.

Normie was known affectionately as "the ferret" and many people wondered why. If you ever worked with or talked to Normie you would know why. Leave him with a stranger, or in a town for more than ten minutes and he would come back with more information than the local newspaper. He never let anything beat him if at all

possible. We also found that the name "Billy Keating" suited him. It did not matter where he went, when it was Normie's turn to shout somebody would say "that's O.K. it's on the house Norm". We could drink to his memory now and Normie would love it because just like Billy Keating, it is not his shout. Another of Normie's talents was writing poetry although many may never have had the opportunity to hear his outback verses.

Some of his "highlights" whilst working with us:-

Getting his boots filled with gluggy water when the spaghetti was being washed.

After fitting a tyre in the heat, having to let it down again just because Eric's own tarpaulin was caught in the rim and Eric would not let him cut a hole in it.

Eric always finding a deep boghole when Normie was so short.

Promising Margie the only shady tree for lunch, then finding a dead bullock under it.

Being told he was to do an accommodated tour then finding we were to travel alongside him on a camper.

Finding his bundy bottle was full of cold tea.

When giving commentary, people were always amazed at his ability to quote dates and places and names so accurately. His method was to associate events and dates with a special occurrence e.g. Remember Ned Kelly - He was hung on Remembrance Day - 11/11/1880.

Normie was a fair dinkum Aussie - He died on Anzac Day - How Australian can one get?

Normie has left a gap in the tourist industry - a man who will never be replaced. Who will ever forget his love of Australia, his enormous knowledge of the country, his keen sense of humour and his respect for the people who settled this land.

A comment was made that Normie never wrote his life story because he did not know where to start. We believe this is true. We faced this exact same problem here today and we would thank Ruth for her great assistance. We can only say we are proud to have had Normie as a mate and to have shared so many experiences with him.

Eric Blizzard and Margie Goates



June 10 1986
Norm formally opened
Travellers Village
(Red Centre Resort).

COOBER PEDY TO GLENDAMBO VIA MIRIKATA AND KINGOONYA

In my years of driving the Stuart Highway my pet hate was between Kingoonya and Coober Pedy, even though the road is now sealed it is still the pits.

Recently I made a trip to Coober for a Tourist Association meeting. On the return trip I left the Highway 115Kms South and went out to Mirikata, a small village connected to Woomera used to track rockets fired from Lake Hart Range Head, through the 60's and 70's. I took a dirt track south which took me to The Twins Station Homestead. Remember the old Highway past by the two tanks on the west side of the homestead. I spoke to Wayne Rankin, owner of the Twins and McDouall Peak Stations, and he talked about sitting out at night watching the rocket fly past, many of them landing on his Station. Just south of the Twins through the boundary fence of Mt. Eba Station I joined the old highway. Just as it was, of course, over grown except for two wheel tracks down the centre - now only used as a Station track. Remember the pink F.B. Holden Station Wagon on the east side of the highway. It is still there and it is still on it's roof. Closer to Mt. Eba the remains of the truck pan that crashed and burnt. The only signs left there are the bend cattle and grid warning signs. At Mt. Eba Station a gate replaces the Grid.

From Mt. Eba to Bon Bon Station is still maintained and is used by Mt. Eba, Millers Creak and Billakalina Stations.

Remember the old wooden Mt. Sabine sign - it's still there - a bit hard to read now though. From Gosses to Kingoonya it's still the same hard sand road with limestone outcrops across it.

Kingoonya - what a surprise. A lot of the old buildings are still there and the town is a lot cleaner and tidier than I have ever seen it. Woodies store and post office is still lived in with many trees planted around it. The Kingoonya Hall, the Pub, Foxes, Cricket Pitch and Caravan Park behind the Pub are all still there and being used. The Caravan Park and Store is operated by Les and Bev White, petrol is also available. From Kingoonya back across the railway on past the old Glendambo Stone Tank and Outstation back to the bitumen at Glendambo.

Cheers

Hazy

A note from John Dare in Alice recently. He has opened a tour booking office in the centre of Alice Springs on the Corner Todd Street and Gregory Terrace. It is open 7 days a week from 7.00 a.m. - 7.30 p.m. and John is hoping for some visitors to drop in for a cuppa. Any members - especially newcomers to Alice - I'm sure John would be very helpful.

GOSSIP

The baby boom has started!! Blame the "Hillmans", they are first. Congratulations to Bryn and Reen on the birth of Samantha Jayne - a black-haired, big footed little girl. Secondly, congratulations to Annette and Pete Biar on the birth of their second son Leithe.

Maree Quinn has married a APT Driver, Stuart Bowker, earlier this year. Congratulations to Maree and Stuart.

The continuing story of Higgo's boots (Ray Higginson). He has now apparently bought one new boot and is wearing it in as he can only stand to have one sore foot at a time. We hope the shoe store puts its mate out on the Sale table so he will eventually have a pair.

Late Notice: Sue and David Rounds are the proud parents of a baby girl, Grace Emma.

Early April, 4 A.L.D.E.C.C. members decided to do the right thing and travel by cab to young Garry Higgo's 30th Surprise Party. Higgo wasn't the only one surprised on the night. During an hour of travelling these four managed to go parking twice (one member was really looking forward to the 3rd time) and then get booked for speeding, the cabbie had managed to get up to 110 kmh in a 60 zone. Oh well, after downing 2 bottles of the good old bundy and enjoying the company of others the four headed off to the nearest cab rank in the wee hours hoping to get a few more surprises on the return trip.

John and Lynne Milne have moved house. The new address is roadside stop whilst travelling in their 5 tonne International with house and boat entow. Anyone with good information where to fish along the east coast, keep an eye out for the big white truck.

By the way, John was a driver with A.A.T., Grendas, and a few more. Lynne was John's cook along the way.

Sue Grant is, (along with her other jobs) organising some new menus that could come in handy for any cooks on the road. Sue's heard of cooking up Kangaroo's testicles as an entree. The sauces sound wonderful, not so sure about the other. Write to Sue for a copy.

Carmel and Dub McCartin went fishing; the usual spot along the Tambo River, Sth Gippsland. The only thing was, that the big fish weren't biting and the only two that did bite looked like Kippers. Carmel and Dub enjoy fish for breakfast so with what they had and being disappointed with what they missed they headed off home, only to be caught themselves by two men in a big official looking boat. The men asked to see the fish in the basket dangling over the side of the boat. Carmel did tell them that they were only for breakfast but he said it was no excuse as he merrily threw them back into the water where they swam away.

At the end of the day, Carmel and Dub did get to eat fish but only after stopping at the local fish and chip shop.

There are only two things to worry about.
Either you are well or you are sick.

If you are well, then there is nothing to worry
about.

But if you are sick, there are two things to
worry about.

Either you will get well or you will die.

If you get well, there is nothing to worry about.

If you die, there are only two things to worry
about.

Either you will go to heaven or hell.

If you go to heaven, there is nothing to worry
about.

But if you go to hell, you'll be so damn busy
shaking hands with friends, you won't
have time to worry.

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