

AUSTRALIAN LONG DISTANCE EXPERIENCED

COACH CREWS INCORPORATED

*President:*

Celwyn Curtis  
60 Glen Orme Av  
Ormond 3204  
Phone 578 3652

*Secretary:*

Sue Grant  
3 Teresa Crt  
Chelsea Heights 3196  
Phone 772 8916



COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Garry Higginson

Greg Reid

Mary Petrie

Joanne Wigg

Bernie Greely

Kevin Bryant

Barbara Conner

Keith Grant

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

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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).

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Iron on Transfers — Black or white	\$ 3.00
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.

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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???

G'Day Everyone,

Well we certainly got 1992 off to a great start. Those of us who could make it to the reunion made sure we fully utilised the opportunity to just sit back and enjoy. I was optimistic about the valley homestead as a choice of venue prior to the reunion, and I was definitely not disappointed. The Owens Valley itself is a sensational part of the world, and the homestead and all that one could possibly ask for to really have a great time. Our hosts were extremely hospitable and only too willing to organize the weekends activities along the lines we had requested. Clare was very impressed that even the local cattle seemed to know that they should wait until she was out of the river before they wandered in - up stream!

Nonetheless, the venue was really just an extra bonus because the members of ALDECC seem to know how to enjoy themselves no matter where they are - funny about that, it must be practice! The committee all enjoyed a well-earned drink or two, and I'm sure you are behind me when I express my sincere gratitude for their tremendous efforts throughout the year.

I would especially like to thank outgoing committee members, David Verity and Ian Gallagher whose opinions I certainly valued and relied upon on numerous occasions. They had a very common sense approach to things and contributed greatly to the "Team Spirit" of the committee. While still on the topic of the committee, I would like to extend a warm welcome to new members Keith Grant and Kevin Bryant.

I look forward to their contributions as wise and experienced people, and assure you all that we will endeavour to work as a team to make your association with ALDECC a worthwhile one.

Enjoy Easter and please stay safe in your travels.

Cheers, Cel Curtis

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Hi There, Well what a great reunion. We are hoping that next year's will be equally as enjoyable. It was great entertainment, good food and along with lots of chins wagging.

We (the committee) has approved to buy a camel in the next camel cup in Alice at a cost of \$300. All monies goes to local charity. Val Mack had better have good riding technique. I'm sure it will be a great day.

We are missing a photo album from the reunion at Mt. Breckan. If anyone knows it's whereabouts it would be much appreciated. It's the only missing reunion photo.

Just a warning!! As of 1993 subscriptions will increase to \$15.00. Please only send \$10.00 for this year (1992). Enough from me, take care.

Sue Grant

N.B. The money raised by the members at the lunch on Sunday of the 1992 reunion for kids for cancer Murray river swim, was \$59.65. This money was given to John Blanch who in turn gave it to the accountant of Bus Proprietors Association Allan Bussey, to go into the trust account. A notice will be put into the B.P.A. newsletter on the completion of the swim, along with all the other organisations and individuals who raised money.

DIARY OF A COACH COOK

July 28th

Dear Diary,

Four days to get back to you, but so much has happened. We've been travelling a lot and today we reached Alice Springs. I'm so excited because I never dreamed that I would make it to the centre of Australia.

We're staying in a caravan park for the next three nights. What luxury! There is plenty of hot water to wash the dishes with and grass to put the tents on. The first moment that I can, I intend to do some laundry. Crater-face has asked me to do his and I suppose I'll have to because he says that All the cooks do the coach captains washing. I've never washed a mans' unmentionables before!!

There are a lot of other tours staying in the park and after dinner Crater-face took me around to meet all the other crew. I was a bit embarrassed, but they all seem quite nice. We had a bit to drink and some of the cooks got a bit giggly, calling the passengers funny names like punters and terrorists. They have all been touring for quite a while and seem to know all the tricks. I got some good recipes from them and tomorrow one said she would go shopping with me when the passengers are out sight-seeing. I suppose that means that I won't be able to see everything that I thought I would.

Crater-face made arrangements for us to go out with them for dinner tomorrow night, when our passengers have a free night. Now diary, I have to tell you something that rather embarrassed me. We were sitting with all the other coach crew, having a great time, (actually we were sitting in the luggage bin of another coach) when some of the drivers started laughing and making lewd suggestions. There were all looking at a row of tents, not too far away. You see, the tents had lights in them and you could see through the canvas at what the people inside were doing. And the drivers were watching a couple doing.... well, you can imagine! I was so embarrassed for the poor people but then another cook said not to worry, you see that sort of thing all the time. I was glad that they weren't my passengers.

Well, time to go to sleep. It sure is a different way of making a living but I'm really having a good time.

July 29th

Dear Diary,

Not much time tonight. Boy, am I tired. I spent almost all day shopping for food. I never realised how much food cost to buy. \$800, and only 6 trolleys full. The girl at the checkout nearly fainted when I came through. She was grateful that I didn't want parcel pick-up so she gave me the tokens. You know spend \$10 and get a token that counts as money towards a new dinner set. I got 80 tokens, so now I have 6 china plates, 6 saucers and 3 cups. Can't wait till next shopping day. I hope they have the same design in the Darwin store. I got all the laundry done today. Doesn't seem fair that I couldn't get to visit all the local sights, but I am sure they can wait for another time. The passengers were all happy when they came back. Thank goodness I don't have to cook dinner tonight. Time to get ready to go out.



## GOSSIP

As everybody who attended the reunion is aware, Marcie Coates won a raffle prize of 2 nights accommodation for 2 at Four Seasons, Alice Springs. We were able to change this to 2 nights at the Sheraton Hotel in Spring Street, Melbourne. Sheraton has said that they will let us know who the other person is. Watch your P's and Q's Marcie!!!!

On calling into the Euroa Pub the infamous "Greely" ran into two of his mates who didn't know each other but both knew the said Greely. Not much astounds Bernie but this did, small world ah!!

Our notorious "Garden Gnome" alias John Thornleg from Albury visited McDonalds recently. When deciding to sit down and eat, he found himself firmly stuck between the chair and table.

Staff members had to dismantle the furniture to free him. All his wife could do was laugh - what else!!! Maybe he needs more advice from Gloria Marshall or Jenny Craig. Is this the middle age spread catching up with you!!!!

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Who was the "Top Coach Operator" (also an ALDECC member) who parked his car at the Moonee Valley race track to attend an Operations Convention - locked his keys in the ignition with the motor running for 6 hours. Someone announced that the motor of a certain car had been running. Our lad had no idea of what he had done. Naturally the said "Purtill" though someone was pulling his leg until he realized it was his absent mindness again. Oh! what a purr-dill.

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Now here's a pipe story - Higgo promised a certain King Island gentleman a length of exhaust pipe - it took another reunion 12 months later to jog Higgos memory - by the way - has it been attended to?

ALSO How did the Hindmarsh Benevolent Society Raffle go? Last we saw of Keith he was heading for the bar with a pocket full of loose change.

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John Blanch was in Geelong mid February for a few days and spent a night at Norm Arnups place, he reports Norm will be 79 in July. Two years ago Norm was working on the roof and fell off, he knocked his head and bruised his brain this has caused some memory loss, but with the loving care of his wife Irene he is doing find.

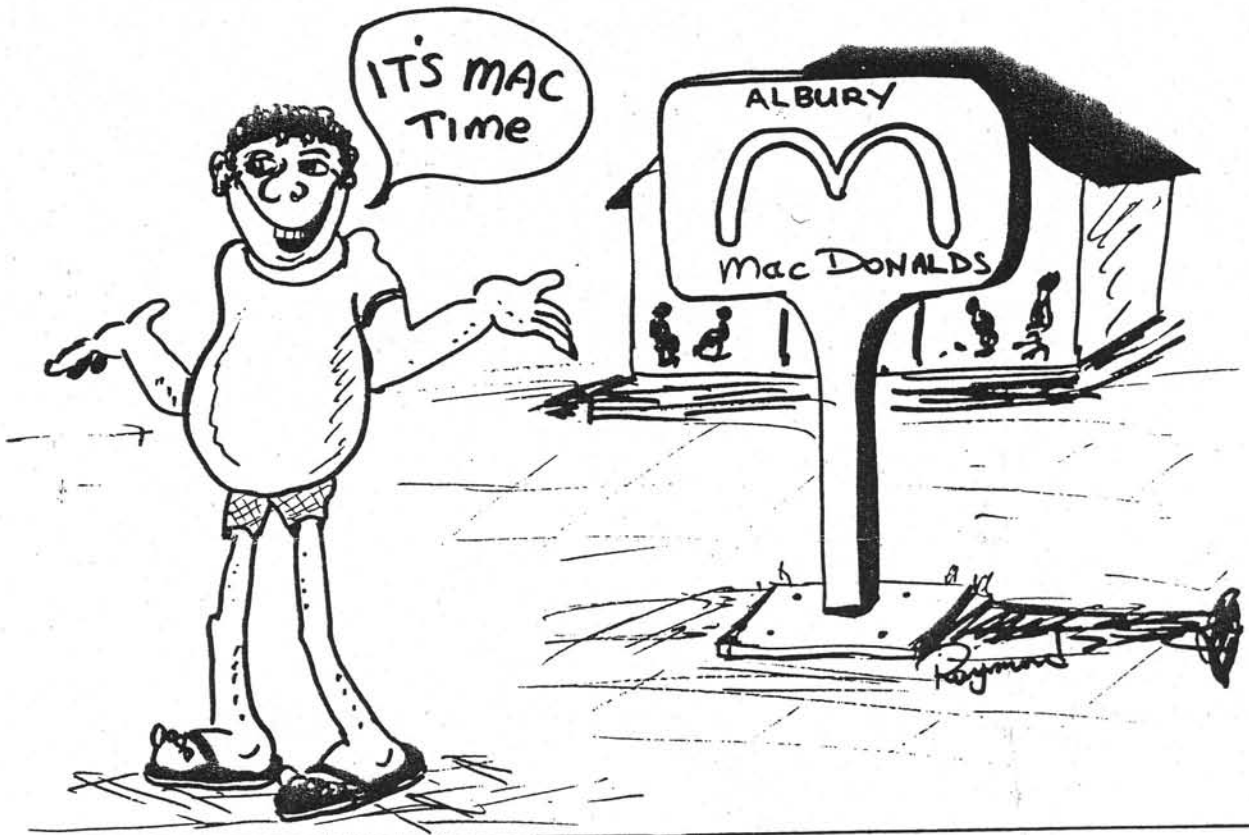
He is still the great character he has always been, Norm John and Irene spent a great ight talking about the old times at Ansett Pioneer and A.P.T. the management at A.P. presented Norm with the steering wheel of his Mercedes Coach when he retired in the late 70's.

Norm would love to hear from anyone who cares to write to him or call in and see him, Irene and Norm would make you more than welcome and Norm loves to talk about the old and not so old days.

Norm's address is 2 Merralyn Street, Belmont Geelong 3216. Phone: 052-438558.

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WANTED: One grill front and label for a 1982 Statesman Capri. Fay Nayler is driving an undressed car. If you can help please contact Fay at the Exchange Hotel, Laidley. Phone: 075 - 651107.



HOW MANY BIG MACS DOES IT TAKE TO  
BECOME A PERMANENT "GNOME"

## DOUG LEVER

Doug first started out in 1958 driving trucks locally around Melbourne then drove interstate mainly between Wollongong and Melbourne, for various trucking companies.

In 1961, he worked for Ruttys Bus Service in Wollongong, on local route services. In 1962, he purchased his first truck, an International traybody, carting bricks from Wollongong to Sydney. He then bought a Bedford Semitrailer and operated between Port Kembla and Melbourne. He then bought a 180 Inter and operated to Adelaide and Perth.

Doug & Dawn were married in 1963 and in 1964 Doug sold his trucking business and drove for Watt's Bus Service doing route service work, then worked for a local trucking firm called M.H.P.

In 1967 he decided to go back into business again and purchased another International tipper truck and contracted within Canberra on the Lake Burley Griffith excavation programme. On completion of this contract, he then purchased a Volvo Semi Trailer and carted coal between Appin and Port Kembla, and during the quite periods, worked casually for Pleasure Tours of Wollongong and did his first apprenticeship to Central Australia in late 1968. For the next 2 years, he continued to operate tours for Pleasure Tours to Central Australia and Western Australia. His trucking business continued to expand, purchasing Kenworth trucks to operate contracts from Metal Manufacturers at Port Kembla carting copper to Melbourne and Adelaide, Henry Jones - tin IXL products from Melbourne, wine from Adelaide and carbon black between Sydney and Brisbane.

In 1977, the Lever family decided that it was time for a complete change, and in October 1977, purchased Quodling Bros Bus Service, which operated 11 buses on local route and school services between Queanbeyan and Canberra. Doug then decided there was a market for a coach business operating to Central Australia and purchased a Domino in November 1977. Both the route, school and touring business continued to grow and by 1990, he had 42 vehicles operating these services.

In July 1990, Deane's Pioneer Tours purchased the route and school services and Doug kept his coach business and 2 school charter services, and now operates 12 coaches.

Dawn is still managing the office side of the business and his daughter Karen retired in March 91, after 10 years as Operations Manager, as young "Todd" was due to arrive in June.

Brett has been with his fathers company since 1985 and now does the majority of the long distance tours.

Doug still loves to drive his "Eagle", and is out on the highway driving most of the time.

Doug attended the first Aldec reunion and has never missed a reunion since.



The following letter was received from Derrek Roff on the 0/1/1992:

"The best of all fortunes for 1992 to you and ALDECC members!

December 1991 marked a major transmission in my life as I retired from the Conservation Commission of the Northern Territory after over 23 years service.

I trust that there are still a few fellow members of ALDECC who remember me as the Chief Ranger, Ayers Rock 1968 - April 1985 and I am seeking your assistance in contacting them through the Newsletter.

I am currently engaged in the writing of my 17 years at Ayers Rock - the ups and downs of a pioneer operation. I am confident of the fact that the drama, humour and commitment of all involved will find a ready audience. However, I do need some help. I am in need of photographs of Rock/Driver characters, i.e. Lofty Zanker, Ossie Andrews, Lance Rust, etc. plus many of the pioneering coach crews. Bugged buses (and there were a lot of those!). As well as burnt out vehicles. Generally, anything that may illustrate the adventures of those early days.

Additionally, anecdotal material will be welcomed.

I promise to keep good care of any slides made available and return in good order.

Anyone able to assist should drop me a line at my address below. I'll be pleased to hear from them. If anyone should like to telephone my number is:

089 - 52.5158

I hope there will be interest in telling the real story of the Rock.

Yours sincerely,

Derrek Roff  
18 Underdown Street  
ALICE SPRINGS N.T. 0870."

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The following letter was received from D & L Sternberg of Opal Cave dated 8/1/92:-

"We do have good news to report though. We won our award back:

BEST PRESENTED OPAL SHOP 1991.

We would like to thank those companies who submitted a letter of recommendation, thank you all very much for your support.

I think the "HIGGO" recommendation did it."

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-Stop Press

Val Mack is leaving for 3 weeks holiday to Alice Springs on May 12th'  
He has a spare seat available of anyone wishes to join him.  
He will be in Alice for the Camel Cup.

Please contact Val if you are interested.