

AUSTRALIAN LONG DISTANCE EXPERIENCED

COACH CREWS INCORPORATED

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AREA REPRESENTATIVES

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ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION: \$15.00 DUE DATE: 1st February 1993

JOINING FEE: \$5.00 (plus Annual Subscription of \$15 = \$20.00).

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).

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.

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.

We have arrived at the silly season again so I am filling my truck at the brewy on an extremely regular basis! Some of you must be enjoying a well deserved drink or two!

During August - September this year I took leave from my truck, and together with Joe and Fiona Peach, enjoyed the privilege of getting the 1st conventional coach (that we know of) all the way from Melbourne to Cape York.

Pat Mangan was the brave man who put the hard work and expertise into launching such a trip, thus enabling a lifetime dream of mine to come true.

Undoubtedly, you have also achieved dreams and goals in many and varied areas. I can certainly say that that is the case where the A.L.D.E.C.C. committee is concerned.

Meetings this year have been very productive and I am pleased to report that the reunion is looking great. The Valley Homestead people are as keen as ever, as I am sure you are to. We have kept the cost of the reunion as close to this years as possible, so hope you can make a special effort in February. Until then I would like to wish you all a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New year.

Cheers ,
Cel Curtis.

Greetings to all.

Well, It's now December all ready, time really does pass quickly when your busy.

Well, I haven't quite achieved great goals like Cel but I have had to return to part time studies, and that is very challenging at my age.

Just a couple of reminders----- Subscriptions for 1993 are now \$15 please

New memberships are now \$20.

Also, please could we have as many replies as possible in by the due date of January 14th. It does make life easier for us, and Valley Homestead. Even a phone call is O.K.. I will however, be away from Jan 15th - 18th.

Wishing everyone a safe and happy Christmas.

Regards

Sue.

VAL MACK PROFILE

Valentine Beveridge Mack was born at Juanbung Station 100Km from Balranald on 22nd October who knows when. Listening to stories it could be like "The Man from Humpty Doo" about 200 years ago. Life until the age of 14 consisted of sheep and cattle and schooling was by correspondence. To learn more about cattle Val was sent to Northern Territory to expand his knowledge. This he surely did. It took seven years until he returned home. During this time he worked on stations, did a droving stint with the Boss Drover Matt Savage on which he virtually crossed Australia on horseback, worked with Surveyors from Ayers Rock to Port Hedland in the 50's, joined a documentary film crew working on "Beneath the Southern Cross" and finally worked on a boat as a deck hand which took him to the Islands around Australia and New Zealand. Back home at 21 he set to work as a shearer with three others and became well known as "The Mad Four". Marriage was next on the list and Val and Nancy joined in holy wedlock. City life was never one of Val's top priorities and it did not take long for his yearning for the outback to boil over. Val joined Australian Pacific Tours where he could have the best of both worlds. Although the East Coast was travelled many times, the Centre his love and after nearly a quarter of a century he is still driving the outback. Val has seen the changes in Australia and lived through it adjusting as he has had to to what they call progress but he has been lucky to have known the real Australia. Camping tours in the 70's he will never forget because of the breaking of the drought. Trips were not from Pub to Pub but from bog hole to bog hole. Val took the first accommodated tour to Darwin for A.P.T. having as his hostess Geoff McGeary, part owner of A.P.T. These days Motel rooms makes life a little easier although a "come back" was made on 24th October when "Outback with Mack" a 14 day camping tour organised by Val left Melbourne. This was a once in a lifetime trip to travel with Val to areas most tourists don't frequent. A gentle reminder had to be given every now and then "not to drive off without the wagon". A great love of animals has always shown and Val's latest love is camels, not only talking to them but riding them. Last year Val featured in the Alice Springs Camel Cup and came second in the Chief Ministers Handicap. This year the race sponsored by A.A.T. was won by Val. You may see the two now "sway backed" camels at Noel Fullartons Camel Farm. Another feat was the crossing of Simpson Desert by truck. Val joined Noel Fullarton and crew and made history with this venture. Hobbies are few but leather work is high on the list. Whilst working on Stations Val learned the finer art of leather and now repairs and makes stock whips, belts, etc. Orders will be taken at ALDECC Reunion. Val tries his hand at most things and is a keen story teller and drinker although he has now left the Bundy Rum and gone onto Light. Val has 4 children and 3 grandchildren.

It is hard to imagine Val not on the road but if he should retire you will no doubt see him in some little outback area peddling his wares, making damper and spinning the yarns which has made him a legend in his own lifetime.

DEAR DIARY

August 6th.

Dear Diary,

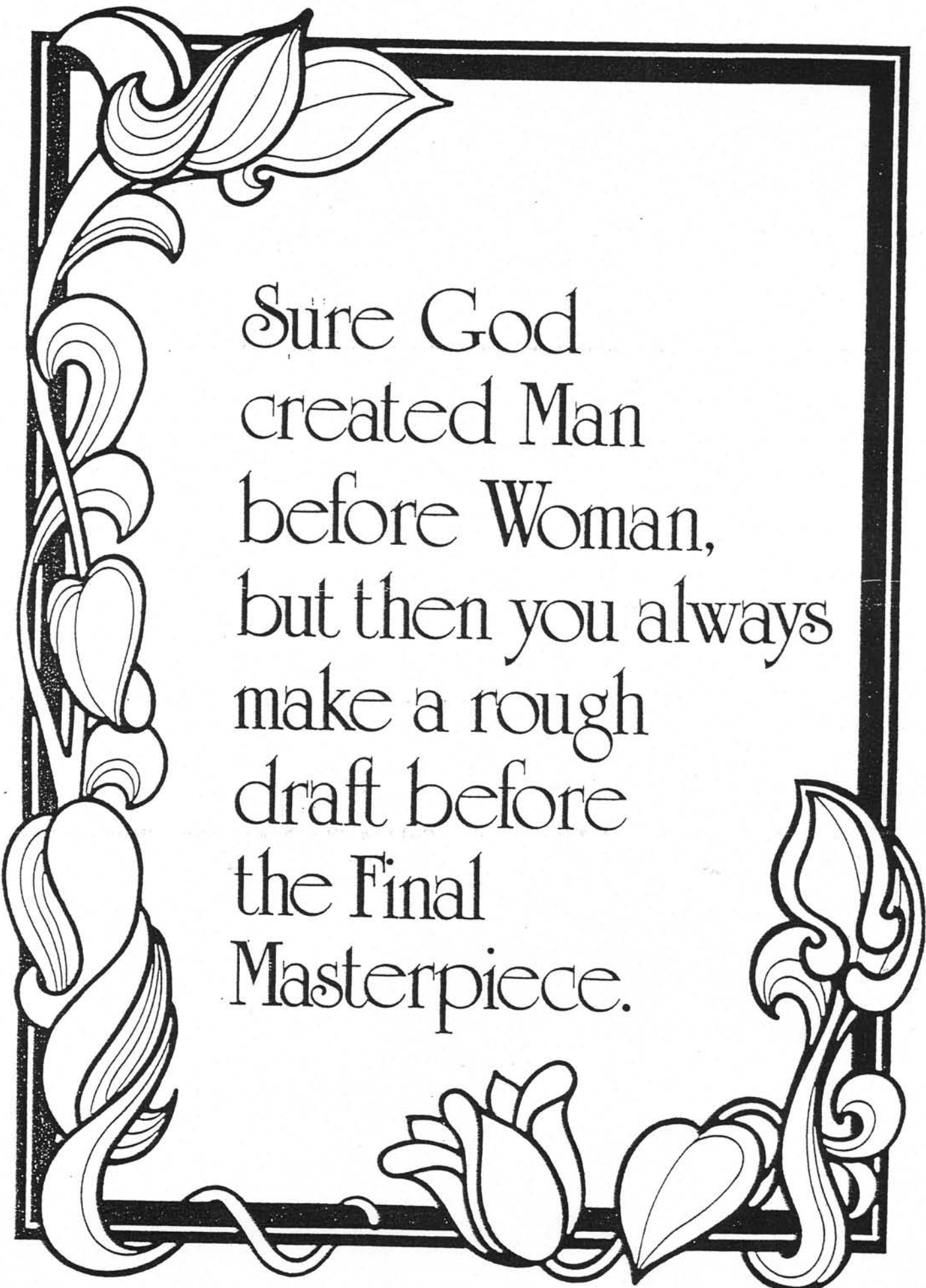
We left Kununurra this morning, our journey West has begun in earnest. We went to Wyndham, why I'll never know because there is nothing there. But, I must admit, Turkey Creek was worse!!! How anyone could survive in that place is beyond my level of comprehension. And the signs!! Filthy, Crude signs that the passengers thought were funny, but were really rather a bit offensive.

We travelled on again stopping at Halls Creek for lunch. A hot, dusty, worn-out looking town. It was very hard to get some shade to have lunch in, so Phar Lap positioned the coach to enable the passengers to sit in its' shade.

Then onto the worst road I have ever been on. I don't think a grader has ever put its' blade over this bit of dirt! It was so bumpy that my boobs are quite sore from all the jiggling.

Finally, we stopped at Fitzroy Crossing. Phar Lap let us all quench our thirst at the local pub and let me tell you Diary, that sure is a sight to see! Everywhere for miles are empty beer cans. The pub is divided down the middle by a wire fence and one side is completely concrete. We were told to sit on the 'normal' side, as the other is for the natives. The publican told us that the local aborigines get a little wild at night. Needless to say we didn't linger a moment longer than we needed.

Our camp tonight is in the Geikie Gorge National Park. Not an ideal camping spot - just a dusty parking spot really, but there is a dunny and a shower of sorts. It was still rather hot at dinnertime so we just had chops and a salad followed by pears and instant pudding. Tomorrow morning we'll go on a cruise up the river. It had better be good, to make up for the mossies that are buzzing around my head.



Sure God
created Man
before Woman,
but then you always
make a rough
draft before
the Final
Masterpiece.

GOSSIP

Another lost weekend at Box-heads for the Old Centralian Crew. Because of the shithouse weather the numbers were down but the spirits were still high. Big M was there early and between her and Boxhead knocked off 2 bottles of Bundi. Nothing unusual about that. Chimp turned up with both of his brats like the doting father he's become since being a pisspot and deirant in his days on the road.

Jill and Michelle were pissed again so some things never change but some things do, Ashley stayed sober! Purtill didn't start another vegie for the first time in many years and Greely also brought a woman and an Irish one at that. She brought a dressing gown, change of clothes, towel, soap, toothbrush. Greely just brought more stubbies and wanted to know what the towel was for. Mick Pearson turned up for the first time and it was good to have a chat with him after four years. Mick looked after us Roadies at Wallera Ranch and the Olive Tree in Alice. He's back plumbing in Clunes, out of Ballarat.

Wooz and Cheryl and Chucker finally hit the sack around 3.30 a.m. and Chucker lost the toss and slep with Purtill. Everyone finally went to bed 4.30 a.m. but had trouble sleeping with the farting from Boxhead and Ashley and the Animal.

Boxhead was crook as a dog next morning and he looked like one too.

Big M and Cheryl cooked breki and Greely only had 2 plates of eggs, sausages and bacon.

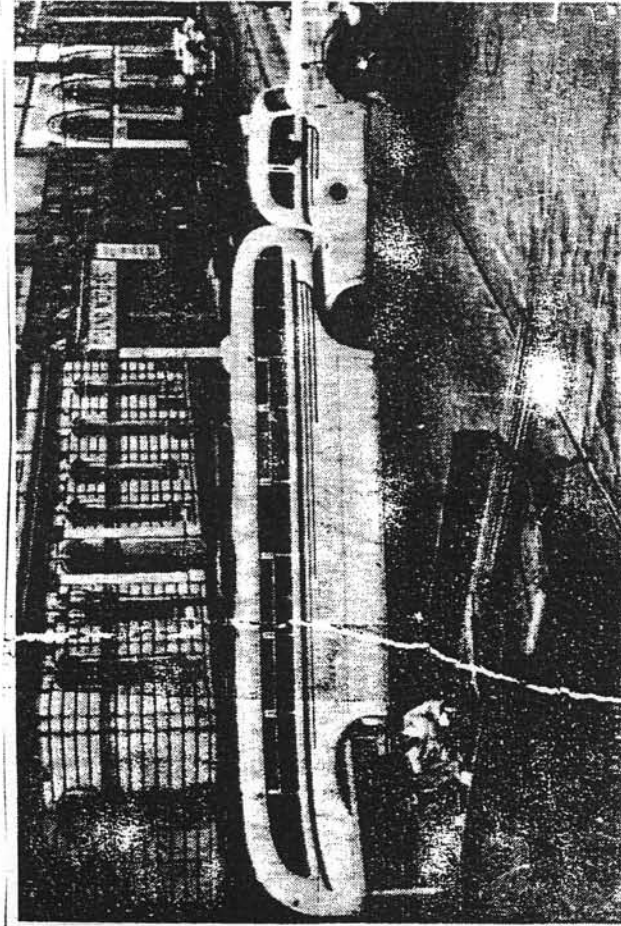
Another weekend nearly over and once again a good weekend was had by all.

PROUD FATHERS

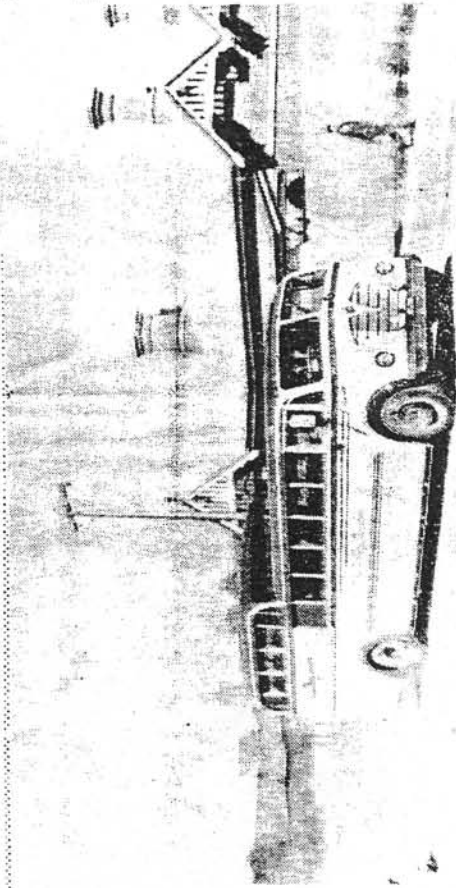
Batman Automotive College held their annual award night on August 5. There were two very proud ALDECC members there to watch their sons receive high awards. "Silver Medallion Awards" for their third and last year. Collin Stephens' son, Dean for Automotive Electrician and Lance Grenda's son, Ian for Vehicle Body Making. Ian also received the Bus Proprietor's Association Award for the Year.

ERNIE PAULETICA was not a member of ALDECC but there are many members who would remember Ernie from early Centralian days and with Australian Pacific. He passed away after being ill for a long time. He worked right up to the end.

A lifetime behind the wheel recalled



● This semi-trailer bus was a deluxe model and between Adelaide and Mildura. Murray Valley owned six of the model and employed hostesses for each to help make passengers more comfortable.



● One of the first buses in Australia to have a toilet. Murray Valley Coaches bought it in the late 1950s.

Mac is living history

WHEN Mac Penaluna started driving buses 65 years ago, the vehicles were little more than eight seat cars.

There was no air-conditioning or heating which meant passengers on long trips usually either froze or boiled the hours away.

Mr Penaluna, 81, first came to Mildura in 1932 to do six weeks relief driving for a bus company owned by a Mr Maiden.

Originally from Waikerie, South Australia, Mr Penaluna began driving buses in 1923 for Robertson Brothers Company, operating between Morgan and Loxton.

Finding Mildura attractive, he decided to stay. He has been here ever since.

When Murray Valley Coaches took over Maiden's in 1937, Mr Penaluna was promoted from driver to depot manager but still had an occasional stint behind the wheel.

He remembers trips from those early days as uncomfortable, long and fraught with bad travelling conditions.

The roads were often little more than dirt tracks which became quagmires after rain and Mr Penaluna can remember well the many times his bus became bogged.

"Buses today are a different world from when I first started," he said.

"Their construction has become a fine art."

The only long trips the bus company made when Mr Penaluna first arrived in Mildura were to Adelaide and Bendigo.

Both were overnight and took nine and 10 hours respectively.

"We travelled a lot slower then, of course, and we had many more refreshment stops."

There was a fleet of up to 12 Mur-

ray Valley coaches in the post war years and the company also owned six taxis, the PS Coonawarra and an accommodation hostel.

When nationally-owned Greyhound Coaches took over the company in the early 1970s, longer trips were introduced to destinations like Sydney and Canberra.

Mr Penaluna is one of the many retired Greyhound drivers who are being sought to help the company celebrate its 60th anniversary this year.

Greyhound Australia marketing manager, Lynne Tydeman, said the company was looking for memorabilia and anecdotes for a special diamond jubilee newsletter which will be placed in the seat pockets of Greyhound coaches throughout Australia.

The company was founded by Arthur Penfold who was a window dresser in Toowoomba until a rail strike in 1928 changed his life.

During the strike, Mr Penfold began transporting friends and other passengers to Brisbane for weekend trips.

He drove a five passenger Bullnose Whippet which had a greyhound as its emblem.

Seeing the possibility of a regular service, Mr Penfold developed his enterprise into the national express coach network known today.

Anyone who can provide information, photos and memorabilia which may be helpful should contact Lynne Tydeman on (07) 840 9300 or send material to Greyhound Australia Pty Ltd, 96 Victoria Street, West End, Brisbane 4101.

ALDECC sends its thoughts to Elwyn and Faye for the passing of Grace, Elwyn's Mum last month. She was a Mum to Faye as well.

ALDECC sends its thoughts to Reen and Bryn Hillman on the passing of Reen's Dad at the end of November.

Our notorious "Reidie" is trying something new again. This time he had a drive around Calder Thunderdome in a 'Nas Car'. He got to over 200Kms and reckons it was a real buzz.

Did she wear his skid marks instead of leaving them?

Who was the driver who ran a red light in Alice recently while returning back to camp with his group, got pulled over by the boys in blue and was discretely told that his mates were waiting for him back at camp with a cold beer.

You can imagine the language when Ross returned to camp for that beer.

Some people just can't get rid of bad habits, They turned up to the Centralina B.B.Q. with a kangaroo sleeping bag, carry bag, T shirt, blow up pillow and a flagan of coruba rum to boot. .

Jim McRae a former Clipper driver died recently.

Heather Rhodes former C.T. cook is to be married at Rockhampton A.I.M. church on January 2nd.

Best Wishes

FOR CHRISTMAS

AND THE

New Year

from.

"The Committee"