

AUSTRALIAN LONG DISTANCE EXPERIENCED COACH CREWS INCORP



PRESIDENT:

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ALDECC
1993/94

SECRETARY:

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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Kevin Bryant	Barbara Conner	Joy Harry
Alison Coop	Keith Grant	Garry Higginson
Cel Curtis	Sheryl Gillespie	Charlie Holland

Hello All,

The dust has now settled after this years annual reunion and you have a new President, Secretary and committee. First of all on behalf of all members, We'd like to thank Sue Grant for the wonderful job done as secretary. Also thanks to Cel Curtis and all the committee for the marvelous work they have done for the past two years.

With our new committee, Bernie and myself will endeavour to keep members in touch with new and informative news from round the tracks. PLEASE if you as members have any stories or interesting information on part's of Australia or on other members, PLEASE drop us a line. The club is only as good as it's members.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the following new members: Yvonne Bradley

Kate Curtis
Craig Blanch
Mac Richardson

The reunion, even though numbers were down this year, was a great success. The bus journey up from Melbourne was as usual full of laughs. On arrival at Valley Homestead we enjoyed a wonderful supper and spent the next several hours talking to new and old friends. Saturday morning arrived with nearly all making it down for breakfast. Most people spent Saturday either relaxing in the spa, playing tennis, playing cards or simply just catching up with people they hadn't seen for awhile. Dinner on Saturday night was a relaxing affair, with music and dancing till the early hours of Sunday morning.

The annual General meeting began at 10.00am with the minutes from last year, and was followed by the Presidents and Secretary's report. The elections took place next and then general business. It was decided during the meeting that next year's reunion would be at Valley Homestead to give the new committee time to find another venue for the following year. ALDECC has now become a member of The Road Transport Hall of Fame in Alice Springs. We had a few raffles over the weekend and the winners were: Sue Grant, the Opal. Cel Curtis the recession hamper and Craig Blanch, the watch. We would like to thank Yanni Athanasiadis from Umoona for the Opal and Glen Mitchell for the watch. The raffles weren't rigged either. Lunch followed the meeting and then everyone headed home after another great weekend.

Please, if you still owe subs for '92 or '93 or Truck and Bus, please send a cheque or money order to the Secretary.

Well it's bye for now,

Kindest regards,

Mary & Bernie

AYERS ROCK SOCK CLUB

During 1992 the committee of ALDECC decided to ascertain the whereabouts of the sock club board, with the idea of restoration so as it would not be lost to time. After it was located in a shed at Ayers Rock Resort, it was returned to Melbourne and the process of restoration began. It was found that under the dymo names were a whole list of original names that had been covered. Kevin Bryant, one of our members set about writing the story of the sock club and it was then sent to the RFDS for approval. The story was written on a plaque and attached to the board along with all names located on the board and two badges, one black and one red and a sock.

It was displayed at the recent reunion at Valley Homestead before heading back to Centre and the RDFS Museum at the Ayers Rock Resort.

The story is as follow's:

In July 1967 at the then Ayers Rock Hotel the idea to form a club that would raise money for the Royal Flying Doctor Service came about. Over a few beers on a quiet night in the hotel the Ayers Rock Cock Sock Club came into being, with the patron John Edwards from Canada using the idea as a similar club existed in Canada. The founder was Dough Friedrichs, the president was Lance Rust, the hotel owner. Other foundation members were Syd Lynch, Owen Parker and Rod Mayfield. The club would get its membership from Coach Drivers and Air Pilots as these were the people who were mainly responsible for the increasing influx of tourists to the then isolated area of Ayers Rock and the surrounding attractions. Early members of the A.R.C.S.C had their sock knitted for them mainly by Pam Rust and the ladies who worked at the Ayers Rock Hotel. Many members will remember having there sock personally fitted on the bar of the Ayers Rock Hotel in the early hours of the morning and many would have to be told of the fitting later that day. Fitting sessions were of great hilarity to all in the bar at the time, members and non members alike. Some new members were a little embarrassed at the fitting, depending on how long they had been at the bar.

Money was raised by members asking for a show of other members sock's anywhere and anytime throughout Australia, if unable to show your sock then you were fined and all the fine money went back to the Ayers Rock Hotel and from there was forwarded to the Royal Flying Doctor Service in Alice Springs who serviced the Ayers Rock Area.

It was not long after the formation of the club, that tourist coaches which passed through Ayers Rock on there many and varied journeys throughout Australia came up with what was known as the sin tin. Into which went money from the passengers who were fined for calling there coach a bus, swearing, being last back on board after a stop and any other small misdemeanour there coach captain may come up with.

These fines were only five or ten cents but over the years that the club operated many, many thousands of dollars was collected and forwarded to the R.F.D.S.

The A.R.C.S.C was the source of great enjoyment to its many members as well as raising money for a great cause. In the latter years of the club it also took in associate members whose contribution was also greatly appreciated. Unfortunately after the Ayers Rock Hotel changed owners the club slowly folded and ceased operation in the eighties.

This board was rescued, repaired and rejuvenated by the committee and members of A.L.D.E.C.C.Inc.

A special thanks goes to Kevin Bryant for all the hard work he put into this project, and also to Mary Petrie for knitting the sock.

P.S A NOTE FROM K.B

Well, you all may wonder just what happened to the Ayers Rock Sock Club board after the reunion? Its a very sad story.

After quite a deal of rush and bustle to get the board finished for the reunion it was discovered and pointed out to me just as the coach was about to leave that in the story "Ayres" had been incorrectly spelt. How embarrassing after all these years still can't get it right. I took the board back to get the spelling corrected and to also add names that had been left off both the members and associate members lists.

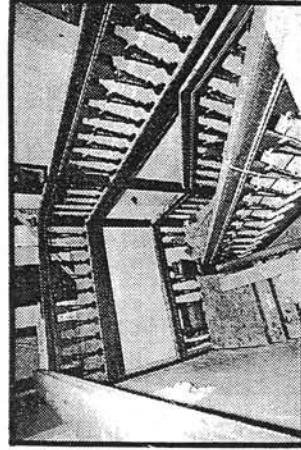
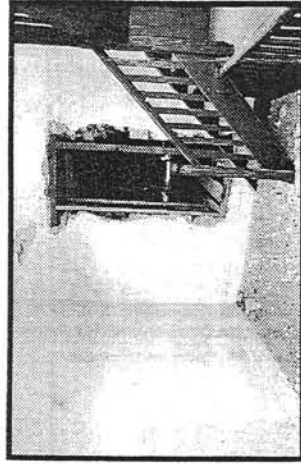
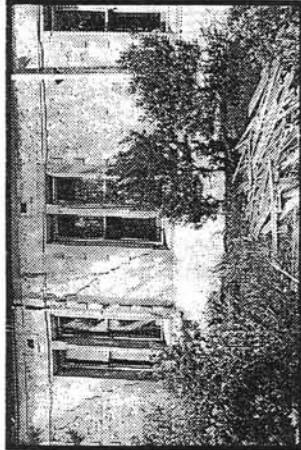
On the evening of the 5th March 1993 at approximately 5.30pm the Bear Factory, where the work was being done on the board, caught fire and burnt out leaving nothing but a hell of a mess. I got permission to get into the burnt out shop two weeks after the fire to see if I could find any trace of the board or the silver foundation plate. It's not all bad news, as I found what was left of the board which we can use to make a new board. Best of all I did find the silver foundation plate looking a little black and burnt but I am sure that it will clean up to look like new again.

The committee of A.L.D.E.C.C Inc is now working towards getting the board finished and off to the R.F.D.S as soon as possible!!!

K.B

Congratulations to Garry and Francis Higginson on the arrival of twin boys Joshua and Daniel. All the family are doing well.

Congratulations to Linda Cook and Tony Goodlet on their recent marriage and also to Liz Oliver and Paul Pincini who also tied the knot recently.



■ TO THE MANOR FORLORN ... Opposition Leader Dean Brown inspects Mt Breckan mansion, its floors, walls and stairwells suffering from the ravages of vandalism and neglect

SOS for grand mansion

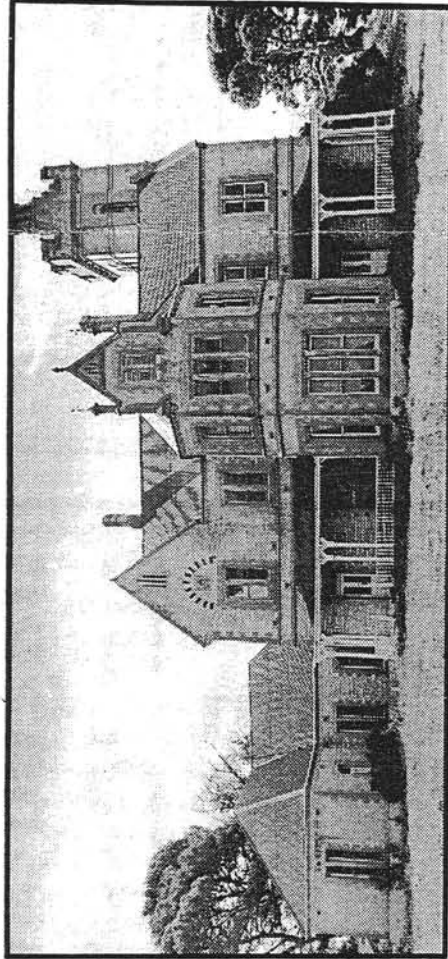
Victor landmark hit by vandals, decay

An urgent plea has been made to save one of Victor Harbor's most imposing and historic landmarks.

The stately 113-year-old Mt Breckan mansion, a gracious building with 360-degree vistas of the popular tourist centre is falling into disrepair through neglect, vandalism and decay.

And as the Victor Harbor District Council mounts a desperate bid to save the building, the State Heritage Branch has come under fire for apathetic inaction during the five years the building stood vacant.

Last week, Victor Harbor Mayor, Mr Brian Spilsbury, chief executive officer, Mr Robert Barry, and Local Member and Opposition Leader, Mr Brown, inspected the building, stepping over debris left during an aborted attempt by a Queensland property developer to convert the premises into exclusive time-share accommodation five years ago. The property, built as



Mt Breckan mansion ... vacant for five years

an interest with the receiver believing the building could be restored as a much-needed cultural-arts centre for the region, with a botanic park and perhaps local and state government offices.

While the sale price is expected to be well below \$1.2 million, repair work would cost about \$5 million which the council says it cannot afford

without adequate State or Federal Government assistance.

The Mayor, Mr Spilsbury, said the mansion held special sentiment for the people of Victor Harbor and said a masterplan was to be developed to consider possible future use.

But Chief Executive Officer, Mr Barry, said the council might be running out of time and said years of neglect could

turn the building into a "man-made disaster".

"Victor Harbor has very little of this architecture".

The building features an imposing wooden staircase, high ceilings, ornate plasterwork, brass fixtures, leadlight decorative fireplaces, and a tower.

Subsidence has begun due to water run-off from broken gutters and downpipes. Numerous

walls show signs of salt damp and mould. The roof is loose and leaking, and woodwork is beginning to rot. The large grounds which once grew rose gardens, lawns and terraced flower beds, are overgrown by weeds.

And now vandals and squatters have taken their toll. Windows have been smashed, graffiti painted on walls, fires lit in fireplaces and numerous burn marks show that fires have been lit elsewhere.

Much of the interior character has been ruined through the aborted renovation work where ceilings have been lowered, and room sizes reduced by wooden framework for en-suites.

Mr Brown said he believed the State Heritage Branch should have taken a harder line with the developer, possibly prosecuting the company or repossessing the building.

"Obviously, it's a toothless tiger when it comes to this. I just wonder why they have let all this sit like this for five years. The whole idea of our Heritage Act is to preserve things of a heritage nature."

NEWS

Well as you can see by the article attached, Mt Breckan, Victor Harbour hasn't been the same since the 1982 ALDECC reunion. Many memories will flood back to those that spent the weekend at Mt Breckan. It's a real shame that the building has fallen into disrepair.

Who were the two ALDECC members seen at the recent St Valentines Desperate and Dateless Ball in Melbourne? And is it true that they were last seen trying to escape from their dates over the back fence at the Ball. It seems their dates weren't their perfect match, a Carrot Farmer and a Green Keeper. There's no escaping from the ALDECC Spinster's Club for some, ah girls (Big & Little M).

The reunion brought out some new dance talent. If there is ever going to be a remake of the film "Grease" we have the **NEW** star amongst our members, Pat Magan. John Travolta eat your heart out!!!!

Who says Blondes have more fun!!! It's true. This was proved on the bus trip up to Valley Homestead for the reunion. A passing truck driver took a fancy to one of those Blondes!!. It seems he by passed the brunette showing him her wares. It look's like some one will be changing the colour of her hair before the next reunion, ah Carmel.

Recently seen in Alice Springs, Val Mack, being chauffeured around town by Graham Pyper, on his 750 Suzuki motor cycle. (Has ALDECC got two "closet" Hells Angels???)

Margie Goates was heard to say recently, that "Seeing that Pypes has spent around 33 of his 50 years behind the wheel of a truck or a bus/coach, and Mackie, at least half that time again, when they both cark it, I'll have 'em both stuffed, put in glass cases, and put in the Transport Hall of Fame, in the section under **Vintage and Veteran**"

At the recently held committee meeting, some discussion was held on the cost of membership for couples and it was unanimously decided as from renewal of membership for 1994 the cost for singles will remain at \$15 and the cost for couples will be \$20.

WANTED

If there are any drivers or cooks looking for work, Swagman Tours are looking for staff. Please contact Pat Mangan on Geelong 052 222855.