

# AUSTRALIAN LONG DISTANCE EXPERIENCED COACH CREWS INCORP



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**ALDECC**  
**1993/94**

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

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



October 93

Gidday,

Well I'm glad the footy season has come to an end, as I had to endure watching the Grand Final with 30 other people and only 2 were following my team, Carlton, so needless to say it was a long day and night.

Not a lot happened during late winter or early spring, but I did manage to blow up the gear box in the Bread Truck one cold dark night. Luckily my ALDECC mate Steve Berryman (Larry Letdown) was in the area, so he towed me back to the depot. It must have looked quite a sight to see the bread truck on top of the tray of the tow truck.

Well, I look forward to seeing you all, in that first weekend in February.

Greely (President)

P.S. Bernie turned 40 recently, he keeps his age well doesn't he. And we do hope he has better luck during his next forty years.

Hi to all,

Spring is here and another year passes quickly. It's only four months to our annual reunion and I do hope you are saving hard still.

We would like to make Tony Hopkins of Alice Springs welcome as a new member of ALDECC. We need lots of new members still, so keep rounding up eligible people .

I recently travelled to Cairns for a few days, and released how things have changed. On the trip out to Michealmas Cay and Green Island, we were told to exchange our Australian money for Cruise Currency! I hadn't realised we had left the country. While snorkeling out on the reef that same day, I left the poor coach driver with claw marks in his arm. I wasn't quite ready for a six foot reef shark to swim past my mask ( and six foot is NOT an exaggeration)!!

Please don't forget when paying your subs for next year that Truck & Bus has gone up to \$15.00 per annum.

I would like to thank all those members who have sent us information for the newsletters. Keep it coming, great work. Its good to see that there is still plenty happening on the road.

Bye for now,

Mary

## TASMANIAN COACH INDUSTRY

The Tasmanian Coach Industry is in shock after the recent sudden passing of Mr Frank Larissey, Managing Director of Tasmanian Redline Coaches.

Mr Larissey has been a stalwart of the Tasmanian Transport Industry for most of his life operating taxis in the late 1940's, and in 1963 purchasing the George Town coach service consisting of four vehicles. Mr Larissey supported by his wife Peggy, two sons Michael and Stephen and daughter Janne, worked extremely hard to expand his business. A major turning point for Redline Coaches was the purchase of Tasmanian Coachlines in 1980 providing a statewide passenger and freight network. The business continued to grow to the present Tasmanian Redline Coach company that consists of company terminals in all major centres, employing over 150 Tasmanians controlling a fleet of over 120 coach and freight vehicles statewide.

Mr Larissey was a astute business man, who was well respected by the tourism and transport fraternity and all who were associated with him. Customers and employees alike admired his hands on, personal approach management style. He could often be found behind the freight or booking counter, loading and despatching coaches and chatting to customers at all hours, seven days a week. He was a foundation member of the Bus Proprietor's Association and an active member of the School Bus Association and Launceston Chamber of Commerce.

Although never one to seek the limelight, Mr Larissey was a very community minded person who supported many clubs, groups, individuals and charity organisations throughout the state. If he was aware of any staff member or acquaintance experiencing a personal crisis, or requiring help with a problem he would always spare the time to offer his advise and assistance.

Mr Frank Larissey will be sadly missed by all who knew him. The Members and Committee of ALDECC would like to pass on their sympathy to his family.

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### TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

To those crew that spent time on the road in Tasmania, visiting Queenstown. You will remember Roley and "Sin City". Roley has recently informed us that "Sin City" has been sold, but not as a complete unit. The body and cab chassis sold in two parts and the visitors book and photo album will be sold by Public Auction at a future date!!!!

BASIC RULES TO RUNNING A SUCCESSFUL CAMPING SAFARI in 1993

BY S.N.A.D (Sensitive New Age driver.)

1. The cook always makes the rules.
2. The rules can change at any time.
3. No driver can possibly know all the rules.
4. If the cook suspects the driver knows all the rules, she must change the rules or make new ones.
5. The cook is never wrong.
6. If the cook is wrong, its because of flagrant misunderstanding, which is a direct result of something the driver said or did wrong.
7. If rule 6 applies, the driver must apologise immediately for causing the misunderstanding.
8. The cook can change her mind at any time.
9. The driver must never change his mind without written consent from the cook.
10. The cook has every right to be angry or upset.
11. The driver must remain calm at all times unless the cook wants him to be angry or upset.
12. The cook must under no circumstances let the driver know whether she wants him to be angry or upset.
13. Any attempt to document the rules could result in bodily harm.
14. If the cook has PMS, all rules become NULL & VOID.

These resolutions are offered and if followed will bring peace and harmony to reign on the road in 1993 and for another 10 years.

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Congratulation to Stephen and Sue Damm on the arrival of their second child Laura Jane.

Congratulations also go to Clair and Cel Curtis on the arrival of a baby brother for Hannah, Jacob Celwyn Curtis.

We are proud to announce the engagement of two of our members Mary Petrie and Ian "Red" Purtil. ( Yes its really true!!!)  
The ALDECC reunion will be a good chance for the HENS & BUCKS night as they are to tie the knot three weeks later. Good reason to come along to the reunion.



### GOSSIP FROM AROUND THE TRAPS

Congratulations to Paul and Lizzie Pin who actually made it to the tip of Cape York. When last seen they were headed west. They too met the bush tucker man and Paul brought a video, only he was to shy to ask for an autograph, so he sent one of his passengers over to do the job.

Ross Eldred is having trouble sleeping on tour. It appears that his cook is keeping him awake all night with her noises. Poor Ross was looking very warn and was heard asking for ear plugs. Good on ya Katie, keep up the good work, your dad would be so proud of you!!!(Cel)

Who is the short "Red" headed driver from Deniliquin, who thought he could make a comeback on campers after 8 years in retirement. After nearly blowing up his trailer, blowing all the fuses at Ayers Rock and even getting engaged. He now realises why he should have stayed at home in retirement.

Greg Oakley is fit and well at Marla and hasn't lost any of his cheek. On greeting crew when they arrived for breakfast, after a long night on the road. He told them to "P\_\_\_ Off", "We don't want any of your type here, giving the place a bad name"!!!

Who were the two old cooks, who look like sisters, seen doing the rounds at Yulara after dark with a VB in one hand and a smoke in the other. They were skipping along singing a song side by side. Lorna and Val are still going strong.

Lorraine & Deiter are into more than selling opals now. A sign saying marriage guidance is posted across their door. Two crew had their first lesson on how to treat your partner at a dinner party recently.

1. Throw a loaf of bread at him.
2. Follow it up with a sharp knife.
3. Get it Your self!!

This crew are now no longer working together, that sounds like a good idea!!

It seems one of the cooks working in the recent school holidays, has lost touch with camping tours. She went out on a 13 day tour to Darwin with 40 passengers and took the saucepans from the kitchen at home. Therefore she was caught borrowing pots from other cooks along the way, and was sprung sunning herself in Jabiru whilst everyone was stealing their pots back.

When you next travel through Alice Springs, nick into Coles New World of a night time to shop. It's now open 24 hours a day. The night time check out chick is Kevin Lamb, he's the number one check out chick. Once known for pushing a tri deck up and down the Stuart Highway, he's now pushing trolleys up and down the Supermarket isles.

Sheryl Gillespie was last seen hiding under the trailer at Mataranka eating of all things, an egg and bacon sandwich, whilst cooking breakfast for her group (Mt Scopus). It seems a little pink pig got loose around Sheryl camp as well that day. After meeting the bush tucker man the night before, Sheryl is now known as the "Bush Kosher Women".

It appears that Cliff Martin hasn't improved much over the years. He was also seen at Mataranka getting his group up at 6.00am, and hassling his cook to hurry up and get ready. Only to find that he then couldn't get the coach started.

ONE NIGHT IN THE LIFE OF ON ROAD CREW 4TH JULY 1993

Jabiru Frontier Campground

A collection of drivers huddled around Cliff Martins coach - a problem with the blow off valve (not in the kitchen even). Hammers, shifters, petrol "who has the jar of Vaseline handy") Put it back on Paul, does it work now, fast idle, 11.05pm. Yes it seems OK. Paul Pin heads of to the showers with wife, sorry shampoo in hand. Let the fireworks begin in the kitchen! Murra the cook with trainee! No this is the meat kitchen, the milk kitchen is over there. Can't mix up the tables etc, etc,..... Late now, everyone returns to their own camps and bed. Just a another typical day on the road today.....

If anyone is heading up to Cairns on holidays, Dean Hogarth is now stationed with customs at the Cairns International Airport. Dean dropped us a line recently and let us know that if anyone get's up his way they would be welcomed to drop in and visit him in beautiful FNQ.

Well its nearly that time of year again. Back to CT's Boxheads barbecue bash. This will be the 5th annual Centralian wake at the home of Sue and Geoff Stephenson 8 Elizebth St Hastings, 059 792414. On Sat 27th November 1993. All welcome and BYO. Time: 5.00pm till late

WHAT'S NEW IN ALICE SPRINGS STUART TOWN

Stuart was the name given to the rough shod settlement that went on to become Alice Springs. Stuart is also the name for the proposed tourist precinct to be developed south of Alice Springs. This precinct will be established around the existing Ghan Preservation Society. It is named after the Ghan cameleers who faced seemingly insurmountable odds as they tinkered their wares from the backs of camel trains. This concept also encompasses the proposed "Todd Street" replica, to be built as a tribute to the original and famous ram-shackle Central Business district in Alice Springs. It will be built as close as possible to the original. The Road Transport Hall of Fame will also be established in around 7 acres on this site. Over the page is a editorial from the first year of the Road Transport Hall of Fame.

# ROAD TRANSPORT HALL OF FAME

THE ROAD TRANSPORT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC.

In January 1992, a small group of locals met in Alice Springs with a view to forming a Society to acknowledge the the historical significance of the Road Transport Industry. From this meeting, the idea of building a Road Transport Hall of Fame was borne and a 'steering committee' was formed in order to bring it to fruition. Road-train pioneer Kurt Johannsen donated \$500.00 to help the committee get started on its project.

Our first public gesture was the placing of a brass plaque and headstone on the grave of Sam Irvine. Sams' grave had lain unmarked and unacknowledged in the Alice Springs Cemetery since 1959. Sam Irvine pioneered the mail runs in the Oodnadatta and Central Australia regions in the 1920s. His story is one of perseverance and hardship and, like so many others of his era, is certainly worthy of a place in the Road Transport Hall of Fame.

With the constitution finally all sorted out, the Road Transport Historical Society became a legally incorporated body in August 1992. We held our inaugural Annual General Meeting on the 17th of October and the original steering committee was elected in its' entirety as the first Executive Committee. The guest list read like a whos who of Transport, but had a distinct Central Australian flavour to it. We were yet to achieve any major recognition on a national level. Ian Cawood later spoke on Ian MacNamaras 'Australia All Over' programme, and letters flooded in literally from all over Australia in support of the Road Transport Hall of Fame.

Later that month, we retrieved our first truck, a 1942 Diamond T prime-mover from an old bore site on Aningie Station. The truck was donated to us by Roger Waite. We were so excited about her retrieval that 8 car loads of us, laden with champagne, went out to meet her on the North Stuart Highway, as she came through the Hills. We named her 'THE BITCH' and she has gone on to become the cornerstone of our fleet.

In November, we released the first edition of Transmission, and got ourselves busy designing logos, T-shirts and Christmas cards with a view to raising some funds for the Society. Our T-shirts were a sell-out and sold all over Australia.

In December we were invited by the Shell and 'Truckin' Life to participate in the Rig of the Year competition in Alice Springs. This indeed was an honour as traditionally, the sponsors have not allowed any other organisation to promote itself at a Rig of the Year function. Kristy Yon and I rode, in period costume, on the back of Roger Vales 1929 Chev truck in the parade. We had the Bitch and a few other trucks on display at the oval and generally had a great time.

In March 1993, Ian Cawood and myself went to Canberra as guests of the Road Transport Forum. Bruce Melver had invited us to promote the Society at the National Transport Convention. Our airfares were paid for by the NT Tourist Commission. This proved to be the ideal venue for our fledgling Society to present itself to the transport industry enmass. Brenton Perry let us use his immaculate 1928 Chev as the Centrepiece in our display. We also used the truck to lead the 'Convoy for kids' truck parade through the streets of Canberra. Thanks must also go to Graham Gittens, Transport Correspondent, for his help in coordinating the display on our behalf. This conference went a long way in lifting our national profile.

The Society hosted its First Annual Pioneer Backtrack Reunion on the first long weekend in May 93. The event started with a dinner at the Araluen Arts Centre, followed by a day of non-stop music and fun at the Velodrome in Alice Springs. We worked in conjunction with the Country Music Assoc. with artists such as Chad Morgan, Greg Champion and Angela Hayden performing. The weekend ended with a BBQ lunch at the scenic Alice Springs Telegraph Station. Around 150 people participated in the reunion with 70 of them coming from inter-state and the Top End.

The end of May saw Ian and Val Cawood, Lois Gloede and myself in Darwin for the 'BULLDOG ROUNDUP'. Mack Trucks Australia opened its new branch in Darwin with a bang. Forty Mack trucks travelled in convoy to the Darwin Showgrounds where a fund-raising day was held for the Road Transport Hall of Fame and the Royal Flying Doctors Service. The N.T. Road Transport Assoc. offered truck rides for a donation as their part of the fundraiser. Highlight of this event for us, was when Mack Trucks presented the Hall of Fame with the permanent loan of a fully restored B61 Mack prime-mover.

Later that same day in Darwin the HAUL OF FAME for the HALL OF FAME was held. Brambles Manford donated their new Mack CLR Superliner prime-mover to pull 21 trailers in an attempt to become the worlds longest road-train. Several Darwin companies donated their trailers, along with a \$100 cash donation ( per trailer ) to the fundraising kitty. The trip was a huge success, the record broken by five trailers and six kilometres. A job well done by Geoff Goodrich and his team at Mack, as well as our many other Darwin supporters

The retrieval team finally netted itself a bus in June. A trip to Noel Fullartons' Camel farm, yielded a Diamond T bus. It is our first bus and its retrieval was met with much excitement. We have always stressed that our definition of road transport included the bus and coach industrys. There is no disputing the colourful histories of those such as Len Tuit, Jack McCafferty and Doug Foster.

In July 1993, we promoted ourselves at the Remote Area Conference in Alice Springs. N.T Minister for Transport and Works presented us with a 1974 R600 Mack pole truck for retrieval work, and also gave a commitment of funding to get us established. Transport and Works also gave us a shed from their Plant Depot saying they would relocate it for us, once we decided on a suitable site. And at an Extraordinary General Meeting on the 16th Aug, the members of the Society voted overwhelmingly to take up the offer of land at the Ghan Preservation Site as part of the proposed Stuart Town precinct.

But...there has been missed opportunities and disappointments along the way as well. The Victorian Road Transport Association went out of its way for us to participate in the 93 Freight Congress in Melbourne. Unfortunately, due to financial & other contributing circumstances we were not able to accept this invitation. Thanks to Gil Lovel for all his efforts in making this opportunity available to us.

It certainly hasn't been a year without its trials and tribulations. Some-times it has seemed like a long slow up-hill ride but the aims & objectives of the Society have always been paramount in our minds, and this has been instrumental in helping override the obstacles.

**The Road Transport Hall of Fame is now a reality.**