

AUSTRALIAN LONG DISTANCE EXPERIENCED COACH CREWS INCORP



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**ALDECC
1994**

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June 94

Gidday,

Who ever wants to go back to work after a long and enjoyable holiday. After ALDECC I was pretty busy, a couple of weeks to Purtill's wedding, fancy anyone marrying "RED"! Bloody good wedding though, as it was like another ALDECC reunion. It was another couple of weeks and I was off to the USA.

After 27 hours, Eileen and I finally arrived in Boston, only to find my suitcase had got lost. When I finally got it back, it had been stripped and then thrown back together again, and there were a few things broken.

A local radio station in Boston ran a competition to win a free Irish Breakfast on St Patrick's Day with the Lord Mayor. Eileen and I, and two friends won the breakfast. There were only 80 people there but we had a ball and it was the biggest Irish Breakfast I've ever had. We spent the rest of St Patrick's Day sampling the many Irish pubs in Boston before retiring for the night, a little worst for wear.

Boston has a lot of history attached to it, as it was one of the earliest white settlements in the USA. It snowed at night, but the days were like our Autumn, warm day though cold at night.

For those that think Sydney is a rat-race they should go to New York. It was just a crazy place and that was on a Sunday. There were people everywhere, even on the underground trains which were so wild it was like the MCG on Grand Final Day. After a few days there, we flew to England and Ireland where we spent the next seven weeks. I'll tell you more in the next newsletter if this hasn't bored you to much.

Now back to reality, on behalf of our committee, I'd like to thank all the people who turned up for the 15th re-union. I'd especially like to thank our committee for all the effort that they put in over the past year, particularly Big M. I'd also like to welcome the new committee members, who I'm sure will enjoy being part of the trials and tribulations of organising another re-union. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing committee members, whose valuable contribution ensured another successful reunion.

Greely

Hello members,

Well my life since the last newsletter has not been quite as exciting as Bernie's. However I recently went to Darwin for NT Walkabout. I hadn't been to Darwin since about 1986 and found lots had changed. I especially enjoyed my visit to the Territory Wildlife Park, if you haven't seen it, and get the opportunity to go back to Darwin, it's a must. Another must is Litchfield National Park, with its many plummeting waterfalls and swimming holes, that flow year round because they are spring feed. I thought I was in paradise. Well I'm off to Tassie for the weekend now, so hopefully I'll catch up to some of our members down there. Till next time, bye for now.

Regards Mary

AUGUST 10TH

Dear Diary,

Well, here we are in Wittenoom. What a strange place this is! Phar Lap told us all about the Asbestos Mine but somehow I didn't think about it all being such greyish sand. The passengers had a hard time of putting up their tents tonight, the ground in this caravan park is so hard. When I was cooking tea we had a terrible dust storm. Most of the passengers took shelter in their tents. The dust was swirling all about us for ages and we were all coughing madly for a long time afterwards.

After tea we all went to the pub. The locals here are a hardy lot. I guess they all cough so much because the dust storms must be rather regular. We all got a little bit tiddly and Phar Lap was making goo-goo eyes at one of the passengers. I don't understand him at the moment, we had such a meaningful (working) relationship until we left Broome. Since then he has seemed rather distant towards me. Maybe he feels a little shy because I saw him naked. I hope he hasn't forgotten our moment of passion. Anyway Diary, I've come home alone. I've got to be up early so as to have a shopping list ready for tomorrow. We'll be in Port Hedland and I need to buy food.

AROUND THE TRACKS

Staff and customers at the Caltex Roadhouse in Jerilderie had a chuckle recently after answering a distress call over the UHF radio. The call came from none other than Kevin Gough who had pulled up with his coach load of passengers out the front. It seems that his door was jammed and, having driven from Sydney the passengers were in need of a wee walk. His request?? "Could somebody come and let us out please!".

Apart from listening to the stars, there's another reason to call in at the Radio Telescope in Parkes. Ray Walker is working there and would love to say "Hi" to anyone passing through.

If you've been on the road for some time it would be reasonable to suggest that your observational skills would be somewhat better than the average motorist. So why then did Lance and Barb fail to notice the two happy golfers who were trying to attract their attention as they motored past? Apparently everybody else on the highway honked their horns at the two ALDECC members who did everything short of dropping their dacks. Even their passengers waved!! Maybe they didn't want to admit to knowing these two who are still, by the way, looking for their balls.

ALDECC has a entrant in the next world Capsicum throwing contest. It seems a certain cook, can hit a bulls eye at 20 paces on a moving target (her sister). The capsicum hit between the eyes, split in half and fell to the ground!

Congratulations go to Pete Melick (alias Sket). Pete has been chosen to be base leader at Casey, Australia's Antarctic Base. Pete heads off to Tassie for three months training in July and will head down south by ship in October. We may be running camping tours to the Antarctic soon!

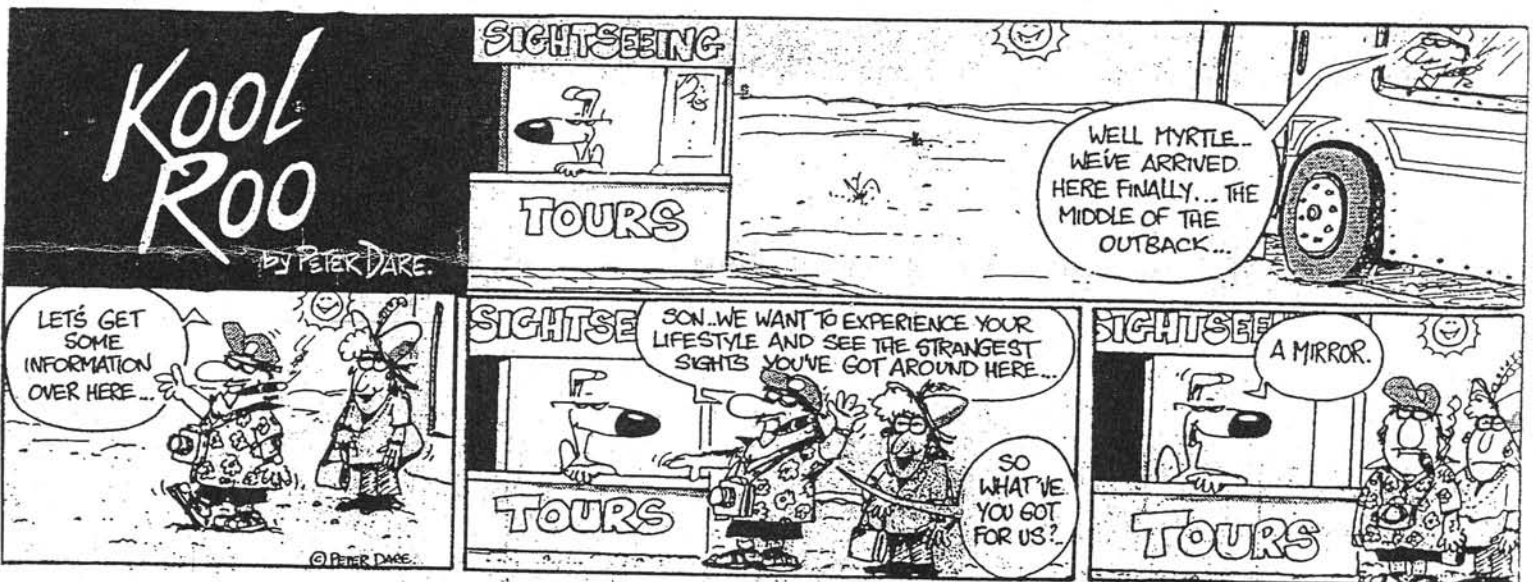
If anyone's looking for Keith Hindmarsh during the winter, he's headed to Wagga Wagga, Keith has sold up on King Island and is house sitting for friends up there.

For those members who might remember John "Flash Jack" Macintosh, He sadly passed away in February, aged 65.

Aldecc would like to welcome Harold James (from Fraser Island) as a new member.

"Who's for custard", This was the most common phrase heard in Deniliquin on the resent Queens Birthday weekend.

What's this we hear, a certain driver in Cairns recently, decided to give John Ferguson's marquee a slight nudge with his coach. He must have slipped with the foot as the marquee was seen to topple over!



Please don't forget to keep sending the secretary anything you may feel other members may enjoy for the newsletter. Also many members haven't paid their 1994 subs, or Truck and Bus yet, so please don't forget, do it today.

Thanks

COOKS

There are fat cooks and skinny cooks, cooks of every size
Fancy cooks and good cooks, who always win a prize
Funny cooks and crazy cooks, who really do not care
Pastry cooks and tasty cooks, whose meals you love to share

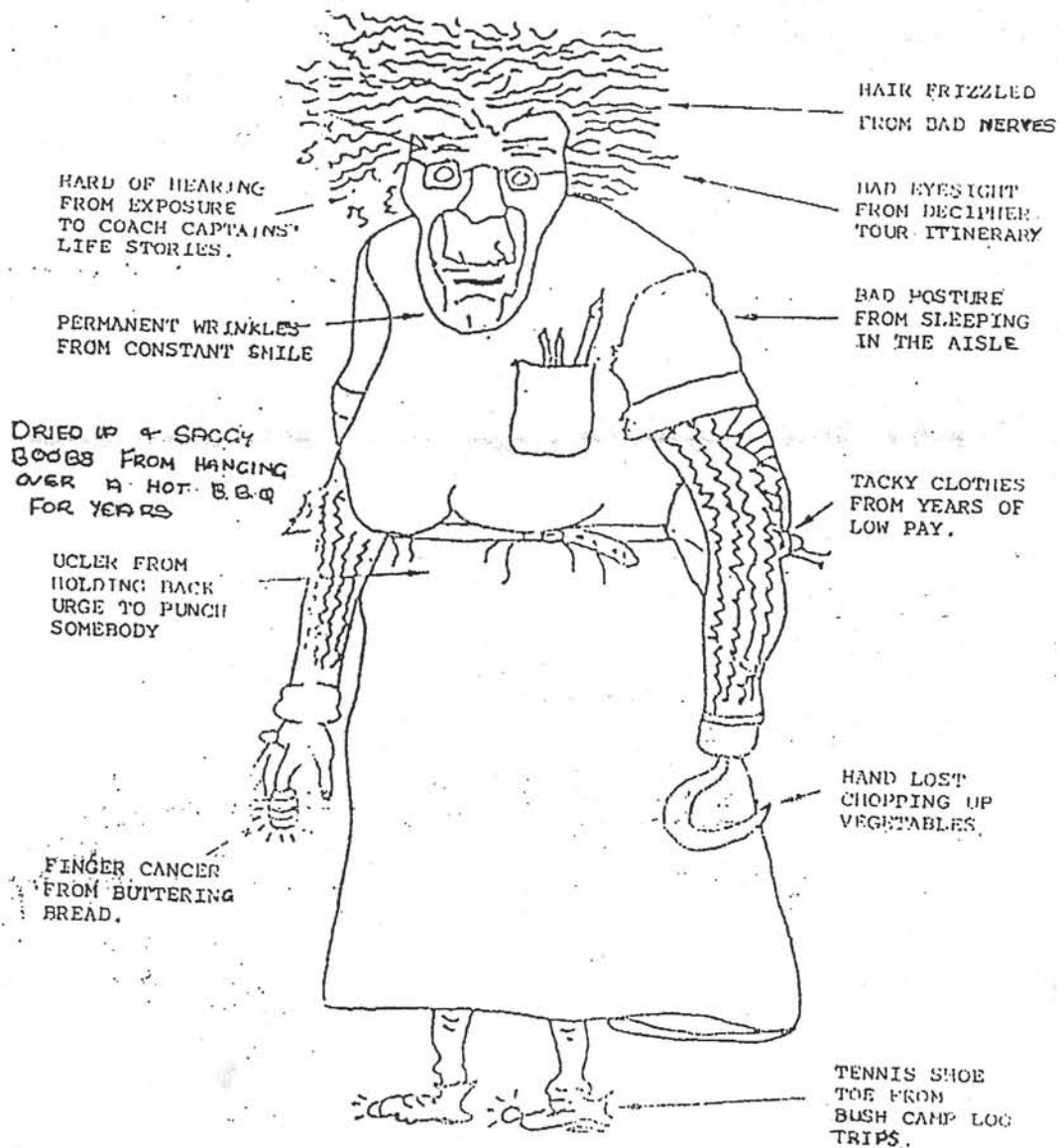
Tired cooks and lazy cooks, everything they guess
Sloppy cooks and men cooks, Oh! what a mess
French cooks and clever cooks, who like to show their skill
Then they like to feed you up, until you're really ill

They are many weary cooks, and also beery cooks.
To make a trifle fine, they lace it up with wine
They also think its handy, to add a lot of brandy
And by the time its done, they're tight and full of fun

So there's happy cooks and merry cooks, around the room they run
There's dopey cooks and silly cooks, looking for the rum
Then upon the shelf they see, what they're looking for
And very soon the tipsy cooks, fall asleep upon the floor

The best cook of them all, cooks for weddings and for balls
And Christmas parties too, for shearers and street stalls
She works from morn till night, and for the guest who come
She's the queen of all the cooks she is my dear old MUM.

= TOURCOOK'S BURNOUT. =



ALDECC

WHAT IS ALDECC AND WHY DID ALDECC COME ABOUT?

In the 1970's the coach touring industry was well and truly on the move. The crews were on the road full time and making lots of friends amongst themselves and with other's associated within the industry. There was one problem! They would only see each other for a few hours here and there. They really didn't have time to spend with each other, without the call of passengers.

In 1979 it was decided to have a Christmas party. As November came to a close, most crews were back at home base. The Dandenong Club, in Melbourne was used as the venue and by word of mouth the invitation was sent. The number of people that were coming was 63, but 105 turned up.

At this party it was suggested that a weekend be organised for the following Christmas. This was done and held at Harrierville with a smaller group of 36. It was decided at this weekend, to form a committee to organise a weekend away each year and that the committee would change every two years, to give everyone a turn. So this was when Australian Long Distance Experienced Coach Crew and Associated Industries was born. It was also decided to change the date to the first weekend in February, which fell before the start of the season and after the school holidays.

In the beginning most ALDECC members were on the road or active in associated industries. The ALDECC reunion was the main contact to catch up and spend time with one another, without passengers needing the crews attention. It was and still is a time to chat, have a few, and simply just have fun. Through the years people have retired from the road, with some staying on in ALDECC, while others have drifted away. Many new crews have joined ALDECC more recently, after only a year on the road and are active in contributing to this club's common interest.

The idea behind ALDECC is to keep contact with old and new friends, through the weekend away and the Newsletters. The Newsletters became a way to keep the committee in touch with the members with plans for the weekend and also to let everyone know what was happening on the road, between re-unions. The comradeship born out of this common interest, "Life on the Road", be it past or present is our common bond.