

AUSTRALIAN LONG DISTANCE EXPERIENCED COACH CREWS INCORP



ALDECC 1995/96

President

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Secretary

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Committee Members:

Sheryl Gillespie
Joy Harry
Rod Leitch

Carmel McCartin
Lyn Higginson
Ian Purtill

David Verity
Veronica Earney
Tony Keatley

Area Representatives:

N.S.W.	Geoff Johnson	C/- Truck and Bus Transport 64 Kippax St, SURREY HILLS NSW	2010
TAS	Brian McLachlin	6 Seacrest Avenue BLACKMANS BAY TAS	7052
NT	John Gullock	14 Dehavilland Drive ALICE SPRINGS NT	0870
SA	Greg Oakley	Marla Travellers Rest MARLA SA	5724
FNQ	Geoff Jamieson	P O Box 200 PORT DOUGLAS QLD	4870
QLD	Brian Hofmeier	53 Centenary Road DAISY HILL QLD	4127
WA	Graham Pyper	65 Kathleen Street BASSENDEAN WA	6054

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION \$15 Due Date: 1st February, 1995 Joining Fee \$5 (Plus Annual Subscription of \$15.00)

Membership application forms are available from all Committee Members and Area Representatives.

Are your ALDECC Subs Now Due???

If at the time of preparing this newsletter our records indicate you to be unfinancial, an X will appear in this square.



Membership is open to extended tour coach crew employed for a period not less than twelve months full time (full time casual for hosties and cooks) on tours of a duration of 7 days or more. (5 days or more for Tasmanian crew members).

Truck and Bus subscriptions are now due and payable to ALDECC Subscription \$15.00

ALDECC APPAREL

Iron-on Transfers - Black or White	\$ 3.00
Transfers and Stickers	\$ 5.00
Replacement Badges	\$ 5.00

Please place your orders with the Secretary, making all cheques or money orders payable to ALDECC Inc.

Include your postal address.

HAVE YOU CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Please advise our
Secretary of the
change

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hi,

Another reunion over and the committee hopes that members are looking forward to the 1996 Social weekend. The committee past and present wishes to thank all those that attended and helped to make the weekend a success. I would also like to thank all those who contributed to the discussion on the future? or demise? of ALDECC. The discussion set people talking and we trust some fruitful ideas will come of it. If you have any further ideas or thoughts please drop us a line or FAX 03 532 3443 as we will be most grateful for your input. The committee can only do so much. I am sure that with meaningful input from members ALDECC will continue for many years. Maybe not as we have known it over the past, but it will continue in some form or another. So any ideas, send them down.

Till next time.
K.B.

FROM THE SECRETARY

Hi,

The first quarter of 1996 is gone! Have you paid your subs? Check page 2. Orange means 1 year. Blue 2 years. Red 3 years. All subs are due now! The committee is putting together the questionnaire on what the members want for ALDECC. As Kevin said, if you have ideas please let us know. We have some sad news. Keith Hindmarsh passed away on March 10, 1995. Elaine, his wife, sent a thank you note to say Keith wanted to come to ALDECC this year but his health would not let him. He spoke of his Mates and had many happy memories.

We have lots of good news. Louise Turner was married on Feb. 4, 1995. What an excuse not to be at ALDECC!

CONGRADULATIONS

NEW BABIES

Jim & Jenny Hayward have a son Andrew.
Craig & Tony Blanch have a daughter Samantha.
John & Nola Blanch have another granddaughter Brooke.
(This means 2 new granddaughters)
Julie & Tony Keatley have a son Michael.

CONGRADULATIONS TO ALL

You know all those stories you tell at ALDECC? Well, how about putting them down on paper and sending them in so we can let those members who can't get to our social weekend know about your adventures while on the road?

QUOTE OF THE WEEKEND

If every word Higgs spoke was a KM, we would have been to Darwin and back at least 3 times!

Send in your news and ideas.

Barb

ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE OF AUSTRALIA



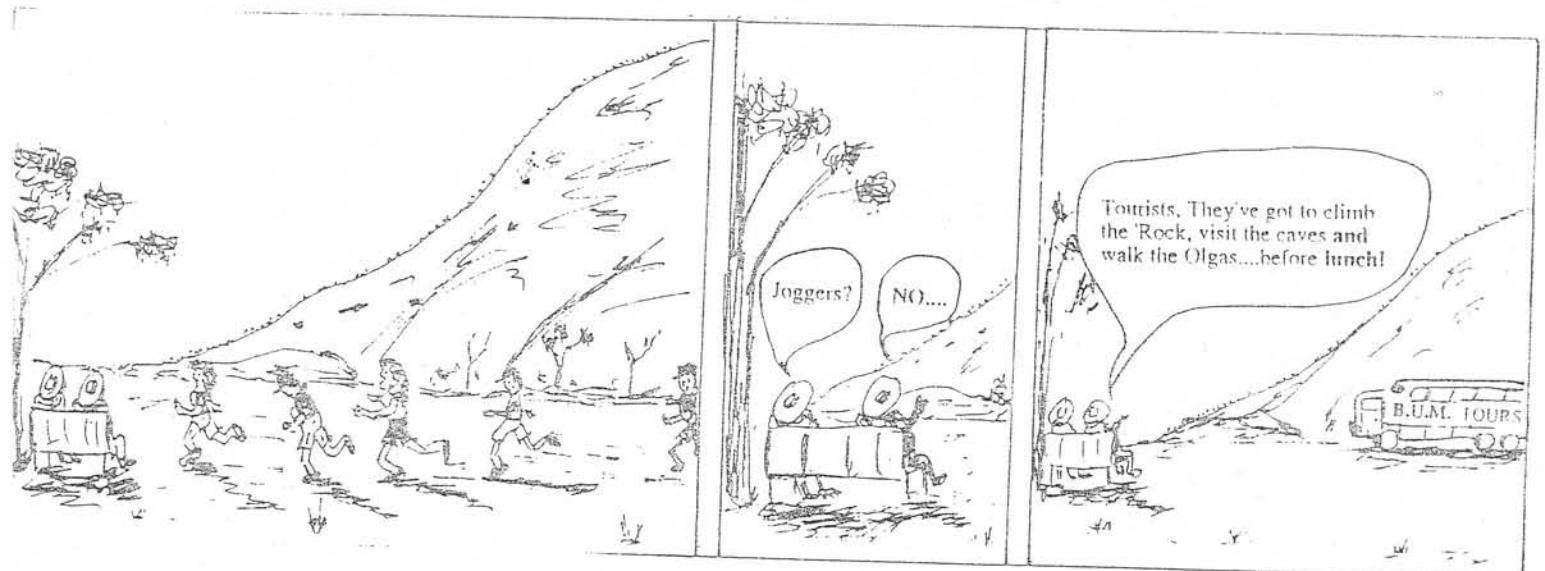
I am writing to thank you and the members of ALDFCC for preparing an attractive board detailing the information about the ARCS Club, whose members gave much support to the raising of funds for the RFDS and continue to do so today.

This board was originally to be displayed in either the tourist facility or medical clinic at Yulara, however it will now be mounted in the Alice Springs Museum so that it may receive the public exposure it so well deserves.

The Service is grateful for the ingenious efforts of the members for raising substantial funds to support Flynn's "mantle of safety".

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Teasdale".





SUNDOWNER ACROSS AUSTRALIA

A.C.N. 003 279 972
6 JEANETTE STREET, NORTH RYDE, NSW 2113
Telephone: 878 2465
Travel Agents Licence No. 21A002584



CHRISTMAS LETTER — DECEMBER, 1994

This is the final Christmas Letter from Sundowner Coach Tours Pty. Ltd. Retiring has not been an easy decision — if running a coach tour was just a matter of Bill sitting behind the steering wheel giving a commentary, and Doreen making sure "Teas Made" and knowing the location of toilets, or the best clump of bushes, then life would be "piece of cake for morning tea". However running a business is not so easy these days and while we are in good health, the decision has been made to give up the commercial travelling life.

It also means giving up our coach which has been part of the family for 15 years. The coach has been sold to Wilfred Kelvin who did his first tour with us in 1966. A copy of Wilfred's 1995 programme is enclosed and if you are interested in knowing more about his tours, please contact him directly.

We still hold the name Sundowner Coach Tours Pty. Ltd. and have not sold the business nor passenger lists. During this year Wilfred and Lesley have joined our tours for short periods to learn more about locations and meet locals, and we wish them well in their ventures.

It has been a good final year apart from the many sad goodbyes and promises of private return visits.

The "Spirit of Tasmania" is certainly a luxury vessel and the highlight for Doreen was being on the Bridge during the berthing in Melbourne and for Bill, spending time with Dennis Maxwell who provided a small coach for Bill to ferry our passengers from the campground at Cradle Mt. into the Dove Lake car park, as there is now a weight limitation on that road which our coach exceeds. Dennis has been a friend and has helped us in Tasmania from our very first visit nearly 30 years ago.

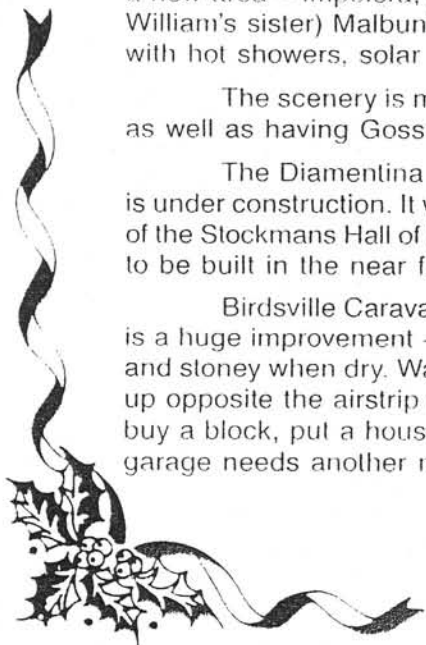
Thrills of a different sort on the next trip when Doug Sprigg at Arkaroola, Northern Flinders Rangers, took us (one at a time) in his new ultra light plane. We each had a turn at the controls and personally it was the scariest minutes I have experienced for some time. Also on that trip we had the pleasure of Craig Souter's company. Some will remember Craig worked with us in the early 1980s. He is now married and he and Ingrid have two children (girl and boy).

Central Australia was the most difficult farewell and we managed to see a lot of our friends — we will be going back, no doubt about that. Apart from the personal side, we explored a new area — Impolera, an outstation from Hermannsburg and met Herman and Mavis (Gus William's sister) Malbunka. We camped overnight and they provided a first class toilet block with hot showers, solar powered telephone and the Malbunkas have TV in their home.

The scenery is magnificent and is one of the most attractive areas in Central Australia, as well as having Gosses Bluff in the backyard.

The Diamantina Shire is fast changing. At Bedourie a huge covered Sports Complex is under construction. It will be multi-functional and the design reminded us of a smaller version of the Stockmans Hall of Fame at Longreach. There are also plans for a Motel and Service Station to be built in the near future.

Birdsville Caravan Park has good new amenities, water and electricity to each site and is a huge improvement — except for the ground which is still like porridge when wet and hard and stoney when dry. Want to buy a block of land at Birdsville? A new estate has been opened up opposite the airstrip and Police Station, towards the River. The locals thought we should buy a block, put a house on it, and run four wheel drives into the Simpson Desert. Also the garage needs another mechanic with motor bike experience. No shortage of work for Bill.



The August tour through northern NSW and southern Queensland showed us the effects of the drought, especially in the cotton growing areas. Through friends of passengers, we had the opportunity to hear first hand personal experiences. We replaced a tyre at Moura only hours before the tragic mine accident. The tyre service staff came in especially on a Sunday to do the job and were optimistic about the town and the business growth. We ponder how the accident has affected that community. We did have rain on Fraser Island and while driving along the beach saw a water spout. An amazing and scary sight.

Our final trip was full of reminiscences and fun, especially the dinner at Ellsons on Kangaroo Island. Drama was provided by a heavy fall of rain around Ivanhoe closing all roads. A co-operative policeman gave us an escort out of town and we slipped and slithered for hours, but avoided a bog. There was plenty of red mud to clean off the coach.

It was great to see so many Sundowners at the departure, and even more streamers and balloons on our return.

Now to think about 1995 – as we have no need for coach parking at North Ryde our driveway will be modified and part revert to garden. Some concreting and retaining walls will be needed, plus landscaping.

Kellyville will no longer be required for workshop and off-street parking, so some tidying up and possible sale. As Kellyville is our retirement fund, we cannot delay too long.

AND of course TRAVEL. As our holidays have always been around Christmas we are looking forward to a Northern Hemisphere holiday in their Spring/Summer.

Many passengers want to continue with friendships made on tours and have expressed a wish to get together from time to time, and they have come up with lots of suggestions – day walks/picnics, luncheons, weekend or mid-week stopovers on friends' properties and other locations with hostel type accommodation and/or camping, etc. making use of Seniors' Card benefits (where applicable), some requiring a car pool.

Bill and I do not wish to get back into the commercial field but would like to continue with the friendships and I would be happy to be the organiser or co-ordinator.

Possibly in the future we may have to work out a fee to cover out-of-pocket expenses, but in the short term, if you are interested in knowing about, or joining in any activities, please send along a stamped addressed envelope to us at 6 Jeanette Street, North Ryde, NSW 2113 and when I have worked out a programme, I will post it off and we take it from there.

Bill and I would like to thank all the Sundowners for sharing your lives with us. We would not have survived in business without your support and you have given us so many wonderful memories.

With our heartfelt thanks,

BILL and DOREEN HAND



*Best wishes
for Christmas
and the New Year.*

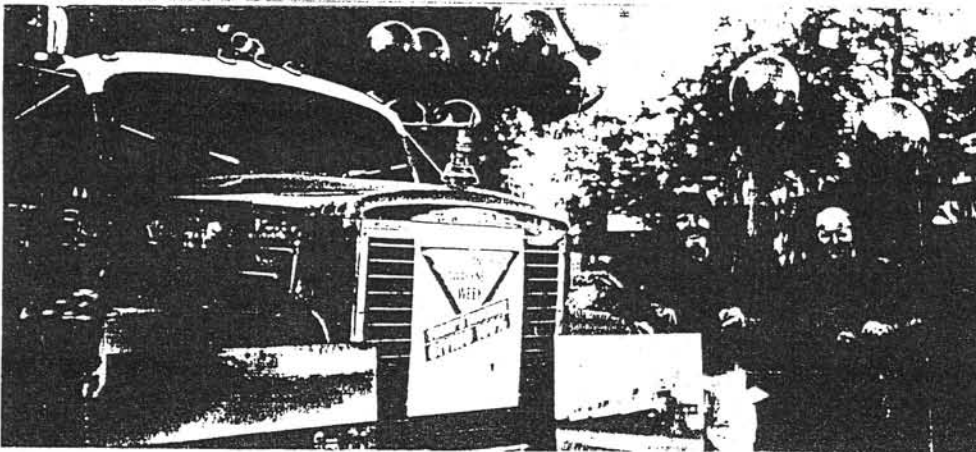
ROAD TRANSPORT HALL OF FAME

In the beginning the ALDECC members voted to join the ROAD TRANSPORT HALL OF FAME as a Corporate member at \$200 per year. As it is hard to get copies of the newsletter to everyone it was voted to drop our membership as a group and buy 6 BRICKS for the feature wall to be placed in the garden at the Hall of Fame at \$30 each. There will be one letter on each brick spelling ALDECC. This has been done!

If you wish to join on your own a membership application has been provided below along with the form for the big opening in July 1995.

The following article was in TRANSMISSION which is the newsletter for the ROAD TRANSPORT HALL OF FAME.

Opening day set for 30 July 95



Road Transport Historical Society members Bruce Cotterill and Bill Harris do some publicity work for the Hall of Fame opening in the Todd Mall Alice Springs during the Xmas period.

Plans are well underway for the opening of the Road Transport Hall of Fame at the end of July 1995. The official opening ceremonies will take place on the afternoon of Sunday 30th July but festivities for members and friends will begin a couple of days earlier on Friday 28th July.

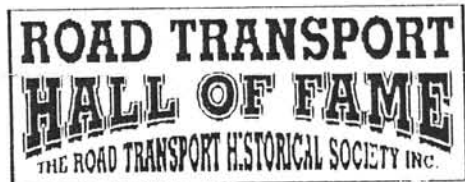
The annual Backtrack Pioneers Reunion Day and BBQ will be held at on Friday 28th July so that interstate and overseas members will have the opportunity to meet other guests and local members of the Society.

Special guest at this function will be Kurt Johannsen, well known road train pioneer of Central Australia who will be present for the dedication of the workshop complex in his honour.

On Saturday 29th July the Road Transport Historical Society Executive will spend the day with guests having a more detailed look at the operations and future aspirations of the Hall of Fame. This will include guided tours of the museum precinct.

Saturday afternoon will see the official launch of Liz Martins' book 'Australian Road Transport Heritage' and the evening will culminate in a formal dinner in the Road Transport Hall of Fames' main exhibition hall, the Buntine Pavilion. Noel Buntines' family will be special guests during this function and the pavilion will be formally dedicated to the memory of Noel Buntine, another Northern Territory road transport legend.

Sunday 30th July will be an open day for the public and will be inclusive of displays from many of the other heritage groups in Alice Springs including the Old Colon and the Pioneer Women's Hall of Fame.



Registration Form
Official Opening
28th, 29th, 30th July 1995

Name.....
Address.....
.....
Phone

Please tick the boxes for days you will be attending. An itinerary will be sent out as details are finalised

Friday Saturday Sunday
28.7.95 29.7.95 30.7.95

Blacktie dinner Saturday night

Number of people attending with your registration.....

Costs are dependent on Sponsorship and donations and will be advised in the next newsletter

Return this form with \$5 per head
Registration fee to :
PO Box 8099, Alice Springs NT 0871

Road Transport Historical Society Inc
Membership Application

Return to P.O. Box 8099, Alice Springs N.T. 0871

Name.....

Address.....

Phone.....Fax.....

Fee Enclosed.....Plus Donation.....
* Single \$50.00 * Pensioner \$20.00 * Corporate \$200.00
* Financial Life Membership \$1000.00 *

These prices are valid up to the AGM in September 1995