

# ALDECC 1997



**PRESIDENT - Kevin Bryant**  
1011 Heatherton Road  
NOBLE PARK VIC 3174  
Phone (03) 9546 7576  
Fax (03) 9532 3443

**SECRETARY - Barb Conner**  
28 Kareela Road  
FRANKSTON VIC 3199  
Phone (03) 9789 0102

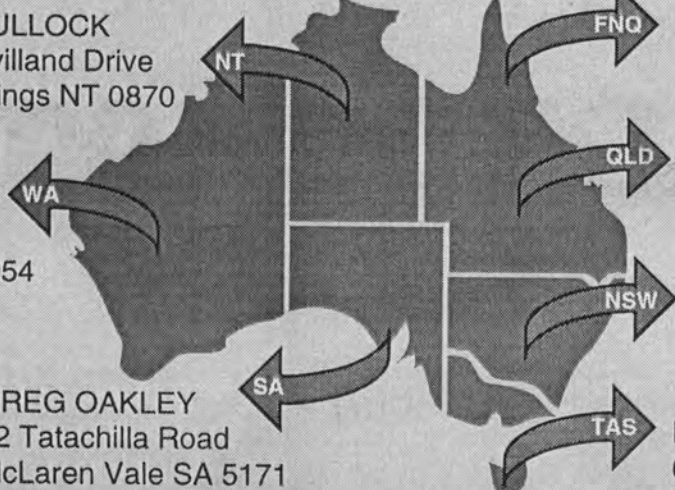
## COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Sheryl Gillespie  
Ian Gallacher  
Ray Higginson

Sue Grant  
Ian Purtill  
Nikki Nye

Jeff De Jersey  
Celwyn Curtis  
Kevin Gough

## AREA REPRESENTATIVES:



**JOHN GULLOCK**  
14 Dehavilland Drive  
Alice Springs NT 0870

**GEOFF JAMIESON**  
PO Box 1135  
Mossman QLD 4873

**GRAHAM PYPER**  
65 Kathleen Street  
Bassendean WA 6054

**BRIAN HOFFMEIER**  
53 Centenary Road  
Daisy Hill QLD 4127

**GREG OAKLEY**  
52 Tatachilla Road  
McLaren Vale SA 5171

**BRIAN McLACHLIN**  
6 Seacrest Avenue  
Blackmans Bay TAS 7052

**Annual Subscription: \$15**

**Due Date: 1 February, 1997**

**Joining Fee: \$5 (plus Annual Subscription of \$15)**

Membership is open to extended tour coach crew employed for a period not less than 12 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).

## 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. Orange is one year overdue. Green is two years overdue.



### CHANGED YOUR ADDRESS?

Please advise our Secretary of the change



## LOGO ITEMS

Iron-on Transfers - Black or White	\$0.50
Transfers and Stickers	\$0.50
Replacement Badges	\$0.50

Please place your orders with the Secretary  
Cheques or money orders payable to ALDECC Inc.  
\*\* Remember to include your postal address! \*\*



## FROM THE PRESIDENT & SECRETARY

HI EVERYONE,

Sorry this newsletter is so late, but modern technology decided it was going to rule the office and PLAY UP. The photocopier needed some help and so did it's operator!! Anyway all is well and we can get on with the job.

Winter is a state of mind, and boy it is here. For those of you in the warmer parts of our country, we hope you are enjoying it. For those of us down South, well, all there is to say is it only lasts for part of the year. Hope this part of the year is short!!

The plans for the next reunion are underway. Mark Jan. 30, 31 & Feb. 1, 1998 down for the 19th reunion. We are going back to Valley Homestead. The price for the weekend will be \$115 for the full weekend, \$90 for one night and \$45 for children 5 years and over. Looking forward to seeing everyone there.

Guess who's a Grandpa again? KB We have decided it is a disease brought to make parents pay for their miss guided youth!! Congratulations to all of the family.

The following information may be of use to some of our members. To others just keep it for future reference.

### HOW TO KNOW YOU ARE GROWING OLD

- \* Everything hurts-what doesn't hurt-doesn't work.
- \* The gleam in your eye is only the sun hitting your bifocals.
- \* You feel like the morning after-but you haven't been anywhere.
- \* Your black book contains only names ending in MD.
- \* You get winded playing cards.
- \* Your children start to look middle aged.
- \* You join a health club-but you don't feel well enough to go.
- \* You know all the answers-but no one asks the questions.
- \* You look forward to a dull evening.
- \* You need glasses to find your glasses.
- \* You turn out the light for economy instead of romance.
- \* What was your pride and joy now stands & watches you shine your shoes.
- \* You sit in a rocking chair, but don't have the strength to make it go.
- \* Your knees buckle, but not your belt.
- \* Your back goes out more than you do.
- \* Your house is too big and your medicine chest is too small.
- \* You sink your teeth into a juicy steak and they stay there.
- \* Your Birthday cake collapses from the weight of the candles.
- \* You just want to live long enough to become a problem to your kids.



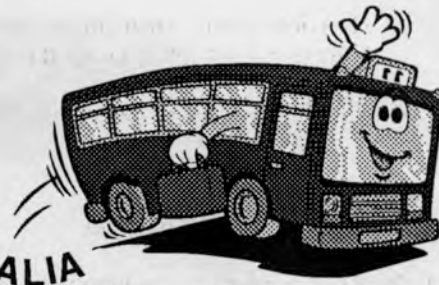
### LIFE IS WORTH LIVING!! AVENGE YOURSELF

REGARDS TO ALL,

KB AND BARB



# MESSAGES FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA



## HAVE YOU BEEN TO THE "ROCK" CALL "ULURU"?

Well, the "Kelly Gang" are still there! Some people never learn! V.I.P. TOUR, TRAVEL AND AIRPORT services with assorted cars, mini coaches and large coaches totalling a fleet of 53 and offices in Darwin, Alice Springs and the Rock is keeping them busy!!

The 2 babies, Tory and Sedge are almost grown up! **FEELING OLD?** Tory is in Sales/Marketing, looking after North America and getting married in Oct. Sedge is learning the Coach business from the bottom up. He is finding out all about keeping the fleet clean and where the grease is supposed to go. Got to start somewhere!

## IF YOU ARE GOING TO THE "ROCK", CALL IN AND SAY HI!

\*\*\*\*\*

## DON'T BELIEVE WHAT YOU READ IN THE TRANSPORT PRESS!

If anyone tells you that old Geoff Johnson, one-time transport and long-time "back door" member of this well respected organisation, ALDECC, is DEAD! Don't take it too seriously.

Tell them, the last report from Sydney confirmed old Geoff's eyelids are still flickering! His ticket has been Written out for the Great Bus Depo in the sky, but he isn't ready to use it YET!

This is my way of saying, despite the dropping of my name from a certain publication, I am still very much in the land of the living. Some people, whom I will not name, scan the death notices in the Sydney Morning Herald, each day, hoping my name is on the list. Win some, lose some, you can't please everybody!

After 46 years total service with a certain publication, I was, without warning or thanks, given the **DCM (sounds like working for a coach company, doesn't it!)** and I finished at the end of 96.

I am still involved in the industry on a part time basis as a freelance journo, writing bus and coach news and stories, including the old familiar history articles for two new magazines.

One has already hit the streets and is called PTT (Passenger Transport-Technical), published by Gill Davis. The first issue of the other magazine is scheduled to appear in May. It is being published by long standing colleague, Steve Brooks. This will be predominantly a truck magazine, but I will be handling a bus news section as well as a truck history section.

I am also doing PR and other writing work for several bus industry supply companies including the Austral Pacific Group which took over the JRA organisation (Austral Denning and PMC), Ansair and Motor Coach.

This you won't believe!! (We'd believe anything) I have completed my training as a tram conductor at the fabulous tram museum at Loftus in Sydney and will be graduating to the driver's cab as soon as I can work out which is the power controller handle and which is the air brake handle! If you haven't visited the museum and still remember trams in Sydney, call in next time you're in Sydney. It's open Wed. and Sun. Who knows, I might be swinging the conductors bag. You'll recognise me with my cap number 482.

I'm looking forward to seeing all my old ALDECC mates in 1998 and most definitely at the 20th. reunion in 1999! Have I known OLD HIGGO ONLY that long? It seems like millions of years!

I still have the little green Gemini Diesel. If you see me, Rego. GLJ 000, give a wave.

REGARDS GEOFF JOHNSON

\*\*\*\*\*

**HELP!!**

Ron Johnston, Down Under Tours, is looking for a Cook. Trip starts August 4th, for 45 days. You can contact Ron on **018 156324**.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WANTED, SOME BOOK CRITICS!**

I need a couple of drivers and cooks who were around when I was doing campers out of Melbourne in the seventies to contact me, Graham Pyper. I need some opinions regarding my book, "The Coach Crew". The "would be critics" would need to have access to "Microsoft Words" computer which would accept three and a half inch "floppies". I have put a lot of work into the book and just don't know if I should print it. The "book" would have to be read off a PC as it is covered by Aust. Copyright.

**CONTACT: GRAHAM PYPER 65 KATHLEEN ST. BASSENDEAN W.A. 6054**

\*\*\*\*\*

**MAC RICHARDSON**

1960's started work with Rex Law, Redline Coaches. Went to Ansette Pioneer Express and Tours. Offered a job in Darwin, but decided to go back to Tassie 2 weeks before "Tracy" hit Darwin!! Worked with Ansett in Tassie for short while. Moved to Cress Well coaches which became Ace Coaches in Hobart. Bought couple of school buses which he ran for a couple of years. Had a 4 year break from the industry and returned, working for Tigerline doing extended tours in Tassie and a bit of mainland work. 1991 was diagnosed with cancer and only worked part time. PASSED AWAY 18TH NOVEMBER 1996.

**GREGOR Mc QUIE**

Gregor went to Kununurra about 35 years ago and decided he liked what he saw. Started Triangle Tours and Cruises and told anyone who wanted to know what was happening in Kununurra and the area around. Retired to Mandurah when his health became very poor. PASSED AWAY IN HOSPITAL 18TH APRIL 1997.

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT HAPPENS AFTER 16 YEARS OF NOT BEING ON THE ROAD? THINGS CHANGE!!**

I picked up Simone, Storky and Sue at Adelaide train station, after there overland trip from Melbourne. Next stop, Woomera!

Boxing Day we were off to **The Centre!!**

We called in at Glendambo and Cadney Park for lunch. The **BAR** was closed at **1PM!!**

Things have changed!

We stopped at the border as this was the first time Simone had been to the Northern Territory. We had a few beers at Kulgera. Not much has changed here. There has been a few changes at Mt. Ebenezer with a large dining room and artifact display room added onto the western end from the bar. Met a truckie, called Buster, while having a drink or two. He mentioned a few names he knew like Bob Willis, Mel Todd, John Gullock and Robin what's his name from Pioneer.

Asked for a couple of beers to take away, but the barmaid said "Sorry I can't serve you." The manager asked which way were we going and told him Curtin Springs.

"Sorry can't serve take away to anyone heading that way." was his response.

Anyone wanting take away, tell them you are going to Alice or South!!

The dust was incredible! You forget how bad it can get when you are away from the area for any length of time.

Not much has changed at Curtin Springs except the "boys" aren't "boys" any more!! Had a few beers with Steve as both Peter and Ashley were away over night. The unit was very comfortable. Storky and Simone had **COLD** showers. Me, being allergic to cold showers, put my caravan park expertise into practice and found and fixed the problem for Sue and myself.

They still have the bird collection. There is an excellent photo of Peter and Dawn over the doorway into the bar.





After countless trips of being driven to the Rock, Sue drove there for the first time. After finding our way around the village we checked out the Coach Camp. A Bit Flash! Everything still carries inflated prices in the shops. The only price that equalled the real world was a **POSTAGE STAMP!!**

We checked into the Out Back Pioneer Lodge, room 206, which was very comfortable. We decided to go check out the **ROCK** only to discover we had to purchase 3 \$10 Park user tickets! The road must have been made somewhere else and brought in because it is far too long! They made it fit! It takes longer to get around on the bitumen than it ever did on the dirt. That includes the Olgas. The climb into Olga Gorge has been made easier with ramps and bridges installed on the walk. No changes at the Western Boundary to the National Park.

Back in "town" (Yulara) we ran into Kerry Williams. He hasn't changed any. He is still in the Newsagency. Back at the motel it was time for a beer, \$3.40 per stubby, but alas, between 5:30 and 6:30pm it was Happy Hour! \$2.00 per stubby managed to fit a few more in. I gave Sunset a miss.

We dressed for dinner and were informed before we sat down that the meal was a buffet at \$32 per person! All of a sudden we wondered if we were **THAT HUNGRY?** We headed for the village and bought 2 Pizzas at \$36.; Thank You. While waiting for the pizzas we had a drink each. 1 Beer, 1 Coruba & coke and 2 lemon squashes cost \$15.50. A man could sober up at these prices!! The pizza was yummy even if it was laced with gold!

6am was sunrise and off to the Rock so Simone and I could battle the odds of high winds and bulk Japanese to complete the task at hand. In the 16 years since I last climbed the thing, not much has changed except the chain has been extended and no book to sign. The biggest change was the extra years of personal body abuse which made things more difficult!! We made it so Simone can say she has done it!! After a much needed breakfast we caught up with Rene Kelly. He hasn't changed. We had plenty to talk about.

Back at Curtin Springs we caught up with Peter Severin. The only thing Black that Peter likes and trusts is the road that passes Curtin Springs!! Three beers later and umpteen dozen stories it was off to Kings Canyon. Storky had 3 VB's which put his lights out on the next leg so Sue did the honours. Fuel cost 99.7 cents per litre! Overnight stay at the New Kings Canyon Resort. Very impressive, I must say. There are 2 climbs at the Canyon, 1 is four and a half hours and the other is one and a half hours. We did neither of them. Sue and I had a very interesting look from a helicopter, the only way to go.

We took the Mereenie Loop road through Hermansburg to Alice Springs, a distance of 330ks, 230 of which was dirt. 50ks of the dirt road to Areyonga followed the bottom of the cliff face which was quite spectacular. This section was very rough and rocky which led to the total destruction of one tyre. A \$2.00 pass per vehicle is required to travel this road which is far more scenic and 70ks shorter than the alternative.

Booked into the Alice Apartments opposite the old Piggly Wiggly Supermarket. Met a block there that thought he owned Britts Australia, until I suggested perhaps he just worked for them!! He was telling us they had a roll over on the Lasseter Hwy. a couple of days after Xmas. I said that was bad luck and said it didn't matter because they have over 900 vehicles running around. His name was Bruce Hall. He had just returned from South Africa after straightening out the Britts operation over there.

Our drive around Alice noticed plenty of traffic lights and new shopping centres. Checked out the KB-GRENDA restored A.R.S.C.C. board hanging in the Historic area in the R.F.D.S. It looks very good.

Caught up with Bob (PA) Willis and finished up at the Memo Club. **SURPRISE SURPRISE!!**

The LTD developed a rear wheel seal problem so borrowed Bob's car for a trip out to Ormiston Gorge and Glen Helen. Weather was overcast and rained most of the day. Can't help bad luck. The LTD still wasn't fixed as there isn't any seals and bearings in Alice. Are you Surprised? Some things never change.

New Years Eve was at the Gullocks with Margo and family, Kath and Kevin Lamb. Beef and Vegies on the Webber. Magic!!

Went to visit Ted Egan, but wasn't home. Big changes at the Airport. You can get lost there. Visited the Transport Hall of Fame. Very interesting. Checked out the ALDECC bricks along with many others including the unforgettable NORM BROWN. Hank Guth wasn't home, but his place is still just as impressive.

Probably the only thing that hasn't changed in Alice is the Native problem and the Todd River with the camps and all the Flagons and Cask Fish lying dead in the river.

The LTD was fixed and it was off to Jim's Place. He hasn't changed any. He has a good set up at Orange Creek. Interesting to hear the real story about Wallara. Next door, of course, is Isabel and Noel Fullerton. They will never change. It's a laugh a minute with the likes of Noel and Jim.

Next day it was back to Woomera stopping at Eldunda and Marla. Had a chat with Hazel at Marla. She is the only person left there I know!!

The weather was hot with lots of those pencil twisters around that you get at that time of year.

The next day the LTD and crew left for Melbourne without ME!!

**CHEERS HAZEY**

**LAST SEEN HEADING NORTH ALONG THE COAST. WHAT NEXT? YOU MAY ASK.**