

ALDECC 1999



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COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

John Whitelock
Brett Stafford
Garry Mathewson

Chris Pearce
Alison Coop
Kevin Gough

Jeff DeJersey
Ruth Bannon
Ian Purtil

AREA REPRESENTATIVES:

JOHN GULLOCK
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Annual Subscription: \$15 (Couple \$20) Due: 1 Feb, 2000
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	No charge
Transfers and Stickers	No charge
Replacement Badges	\$5.00

*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**

Welcome to our last Newsletter for 1999!

This year has gone too fast! The reunion plans are all but done. The decorations "committee" entertained us at the last committee meeting showing us what to expect!! Hopefully the members in charge of decorations will have their normal **COLOUR** back by the time everyone else arrives!!!

There will be things for the children to do while the AGM is on on Sun. morning as well as entertainment after they have their dinner on Sat. night. Parents must remember they are in charge of their children while they are in the **POOL OR SPA!!**

We will have the video from the 20th party there for all to see plus a great photo board done by Alison & Garry. Other photos will be in the photo albums as well. If you have any photos from last year, bring them along for others to see.

For those members who ordered copies of the Membership Register at \$22 each, they will be given to you at the reunion 2000. If you are unable to come it will be sent to you. If you have ordered one, you will find a note in this newsletter about payment .

As this is our 21st. Birthday the committee have had Key Rings made with the ALDECC badge on them. It isn't the **21st Key for coming of age, but the holder of the Key!** Each member who comes to the reunion will receive one with their glass. There will be enough for others to buy them at \$5 each.

We also have some size 18 blue & white T shirts and size 20 white left form last year. They are \$20 each. There are still a few iron-on badges and stickers for those who want them. No charge on these items.

For those travelling by coach to the reunion, it will be the **LANANDA TOURS** coach with Brett Stafford behind the wheel. It will leave from opposite the Concert Hall in St. Kilda Rd. at **6:30pm sharp**. Make sure you contact Barb by the Thursday night before if you need to be picked up along the way, like the airport etc.

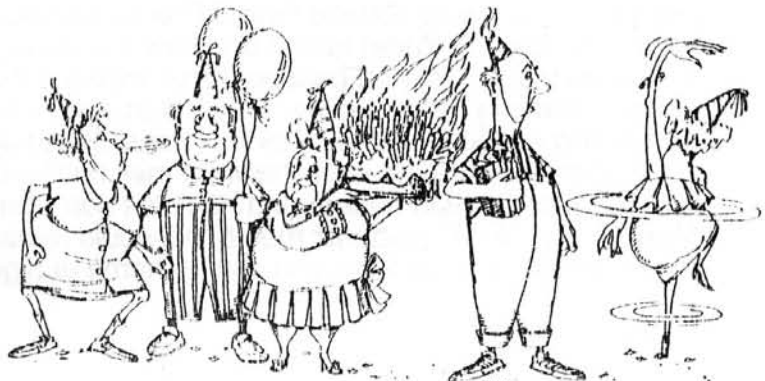
For those people coming up on Fri. afternoon, there will be a BBQ style, cook your own meat, with salads and sweets available at Valley Homestead. \$16 for adults and \$5 for children aged 5-15. Let Barb know if you plan to eat so the catering can be organized.

The committee hopes everyone has a Happy & Safe holiday time.

Looking forward to catching
up with everyone at the
21st. Birthday Reunion
Feb. 4, 5 & 6, 2000!

Regards to All,

Higgo, Barb & Committee



MESSAGES FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA



Important Birthdays seem to be the topic for this year 1999!!!

Terry Dawson managed to turn **50** without doing any damage. Sources say the floating party went very well and Terry didn't go over the side once!!!



This may be hard for some people to believe, but **Tony Keatley** will turn **40** on Dec. 21st. Yes he really is that old!!! The source of this information was wondering if turning 40 will help him catch up with everyone else his age?? We really wouldn't want Tony to change too much as we wouldn't have anyone to heap the ##### on!! It would also mean Julie would have to learn to live with Tony all over again!! The kids are used to their Dad the way he is so maybe we'll hope "Sleeping Dogs" stay the same!!

"FREE WHEELING " A New Dimension In Travel

AAT KINGS have found a new and most interesting way to travel. In AAT's early days we used to joke that the coaches were fitted with wings in order to do the itineraries which the dummies in the office made up. Well, they are getting closer to this reality!!

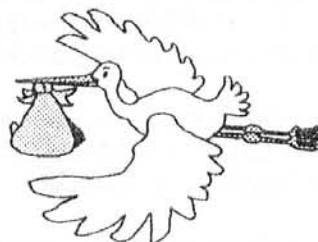
One of the AAT King double deckers in Alice Springs did a wheel bearing on the way back to town. Phone call, "What do you want us to do?" Answer "Take the wheel off and see what happens." The coach slowly moved off and stayed level!! Over the first cattle grid, **STILL LEVEL!** Alice Springs here we come at 80Ks on **ONE FRONT WHEEL!**

Wings or Hover Air Bags, or bloody good suspension!!! That is the question!

That Stork is at it again.

Grace and George Cadzow have joined the **Greart-Grandparents Club.**

Lance Grenda has another grand daughter



CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ALL!!!

Did you go to the Motorbike Grand Prix in Victoria?? A member of our committee was travelling down to Phillip Island and saw a number of Moone Valley Buses heading to the same place. Having passed these vehicles the committee member came upon a caravan moving rather slowly. Upon starting to pass the caravan he discovered the van was being pulled by none other our **President Higgo!** Higgo doesn't use any of his prestige motor cars, he uses the work mini bus!! Higgo was concentrating so hard on keeping this caravan on the road he didn't see Chris trying to get his attention!! I have it from the Presidents mouth, he would rather do the Albert Park Grand Prix than the motor Bikes as at least you can go home at night!!

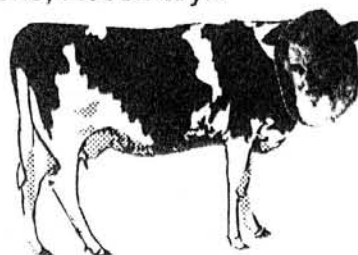
For those of you who have been on the committee, you know how much fun is had at the meetings. You wonder sometimes how any work gets done, but it does. At the last meeting the question was asked "How many posts are there in the dining room?" Ruth, "There are 6. I took notice of that last year." Alison, "How did you "notice" that? You're usually drinking. I don't drink and I wouldn't know how many poles there are??!!!" **TOTAL SILENCE FOR 2 SECONDS!!** The committee fell apart with laughter and 5 minutes later Ruth still didn't have answer for Alison. The look on Ruth's face said **"You'll Keep, ALISON!"** It's not often Ruth is **LOST** for words!!!

CAREER CHANGES

A lot of people who are in ALDECC have moved onto different jobs from touring. Job changes are a fact of life no matter what you started out to be. Some of these career changes are very interesting, Carmel McCartin is now in Real Estate. Reen Hillman is running an office for Minute Australia. Sue Grant does home care for children with working mothers. Bev Walker is a Clerk of Courts.

Rosemary Trease has the most interesting changes. Rosemary has gone from Cook to teacher to Foster Mum!!! A little Birdie rang the Secretary to tell her that Rosemary has raised over **400 poddy calves** this year!! Congratulations, Rosemary!!!

There was a bit more to this story!
You see, Bernie Greely went down
to visit for a couple of weeks!!
He ended up helping!!!



Career change for Bernie??

Travels with Pyper

The Daly Douglas camping area is a good stop to make as the soothing Hot Springs are wonderful for the "aged" traveller and Meg, before heading up the old army road from "The Daly" to Adelaide River. Meg found it hard to believe roadtrains were driven up this road and over the hills. There were times when they didn't make it up or down!!

The Litchfield Park is magic. I honestly can't say the same for the other big park. I was doing 5 day campers back in 1984 and didn't go much for Kakadu then.

As for Darwin, it holds far too many wonderful memories for me to retell here and Barb has to draw the line somewhere. Let's try a "remember when" tour.

For the benefit of todays crews who possibly never had a chance to see Darwin as it was, allow me to take you back to the years of 1960 to 1972. For the full effect, you should close your eyes while "reading" this tour. We start at Berrimah crossing.

4pm and the bar at the side of the shop is open (6 days a week). You step onto the concrete at the bar, purchase a stubby and step off the concrete as you are not allowed to drink on the premises. When the stubby is gone you repeat the process.

A mile north and you have the Berrimah Hotel. Kamal starred here on his way up to stardom. Closer to town and we have NARCO, a transport company. While working here a 100 tons of Courage beer had to be dumped as it wasn't selling. It's a long story but we "rescued" seven tons. There are many stories to tell but not enough room.

Down McMinn St. and up to the top of the hill is the One Mile Dam that was used to water the old steamers. We have Tokes Hill wharf and if we climb up the hill you will find the double grave of 2 Overland Telegraph works with a headstone which reads "Murdered by Blackfellows". At the top of the hill we have The Darwin Hotel. It was mentioned in the book "On The Beach" and earmarked for the headquarters for the Japanese High Command!!

On the shore below The Darwin Hotel are the old council baths. If you sit here long enough, we will see the younger members (male) of the Darwin police force disappear down the steep path at fairly regular intervals. You see, the old baths are frequented by a lot of young "ladies" (known as Hippies) who spend most of the day down at the pool in the nude!!

A mile along the cliffs and we can see over to Carl Atkinsons lovely house. Directly below us is the "Sea Fox". It hit the reef off Darwin and after sending off flares, the occupants were rescued by Carl. Seeing everyone ashore he then brought the beautiful sea going yacht into "Doctors Gully" and beached it. The bloke who owned the yacht was John Derek (all the same as Bo Derek). The ex-wife of Aussie film star, Rod Taylor, Laya Raki, was on board along with the original "Cheetah" from the Tarzan movies. Cheetah died in the Perth Zoo awhile later.

We're going to stop for a cold drink, so all the blokes follow me into the "new" Woolies store. We stand at the cool drink counter, which happens to be right next to the "new" escalator. You get a good view of the latest new mini skirts going up the escalator as you pour your drink down! (Pyper, you haven't changed!)

Back in the coach and we turn right down Cavenagh St. Half way up on the left hand side we have the "Bloodhouse." It's the Don Hotel and "Bamboo Lounge". This place lived up to its name!!

Turn right at Bennett St. and right again at Smith St. Here we have the Vic Hotel owned by the Lim Fong Family. There were a number of times when blokes came in looking for recruits to go and join a force to go overseas and fight a war on "some Island". They were after mercenaries at 500 quid a week. There were no guarantees that one would live to spend the money so I renegade!

Turn right into Knuckey St. to Maria Donatelli's restaurant. "Leta me tella you, Maria makes da besta aspaghetti ina da whola Northern aTerritory."

As we head out along the Stuart Highway, you will see the RAAF base next to the civilian airport. One day I took a load of tyres into the RAAF base during an exercise to defend Darwin. As I left the front gate going in an officer told two blokes near where I was to unload to lie down and be "Dead" so they could time the ambulance response time. Anyway, I arrived at the particular hanger just as the ambulance did. The driver jumped out and yelled to the bloke checking my load, "Where's the bodies?" The reply was, after looking at his watch, "They've gone to lunch!"

Our step back in time comes to an end. Darwin has many changes since those days, but there is still the "idea" of Darwin there. Meg and I had a good time with friends and memories.

We head South with plenty more to see and remember. To be continued.

See you at ALDECC 2000!!
"Pyps"



Warm Wishes
for the holidays