

# ALDECC 2001



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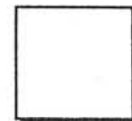
Annual Subscription: \$15 (Couple \$20) Due: 1 Feb, 2001  
 Joining Fee: \$5 (plus Annual Subscription of \$15)

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
ALDECC Keyrings	\$5.00

Please place your orders with the Secretary  
 Cheques or money orders payable to ALDECC Inc.



**FROM THE PRESIDENT  
& SECRETARY**

Hi to everyone,

Well, here we are halfway through 2001 and it won't be long before the 2002 reunion is upon us. We hope everyone of our members and their families are well. We hope you are saving and looking forward to our next reunion, February 1, 2 & 3, 2002!

I had the privilege to get 2 weeks holidays recently. Lyn and myself spent 5 lovely days at Curtin Springs with "Sevo", Peter Severin and the family. Peter is off to England for a holiday in July.

We also went to Andamooka and Coober Pedy. Stayed with Dieter while in Coober. Unfortunately Lorraine was in Port Douglas so didn't see her.

Alice Springs was also on our itinerary. We stayed with Tony and Libby Smith. They are busy setting up "Mobile Towns" along the "New Railway Line".

Everyone we saw seemed to be in good health.

Cheers to all, Higgo

Hi all,

I still call "Australia Home"! I had a great trip to China, but Australia is best. You know you are in a crowd when you go to China. We landed in Shanghai and personal space became your time in the toilet, if you were lucky. Don't get me wrong, I had a fantastic time and enjoyed myself, but man there are a lot of people in China! Shanghai's population, counting the 5 million who pass through everyday for work is more than Australia's total population.

When it comes to loading luggage, we Aussies know a lot more about tight places. On several occasions we ended up showing the guys where and how to fit all the bags in the bins of the coach and not on the back seat! We told them not to worry they would still get their tip, but we were not having the bags inside. Twice they used a small truck for the luggage. We only had 24 people and the coaches held 35 so I don't know how they would go with a full load!

If you get the chance (maybe the 2008 Olympics?) go to China. It is a very interesting country and full of the most mind blowing places. It was a great 18 days.

After 10 days home I was off to the USA for my Dads 80th Birthday and a lot of other family special occasions. It was good to be in Chicago with the family. We did a lot of laughing and sleep wasn't really part of the first 2 weeks of the trip. It was like being on tour. Everyone went to bed at a reasonable hour, but not the cooks, cleaners and party planners! We were still at it at 3am!! most nights! Dad, Mum & myself flew pack to Calif. for a rest. I had a great time, but it is good to be home here in Australia!!

Looking forward to seeing everyone in February 1, 2 & 3 2002.

Cheers, Barb

## ALDECC WEEKEND

FEBRUARY 1, 2 & 3 2002

ADULT FULL WEEKEND \$150  
ADULT ONE NIGHT \$125  
CHILDREN 5 TO 15 \$64  
CHILDREN UNDER 5 NO CHARGE

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*Hope you are still watching this space!  
The price for the Golf on Sat. Feb. 2nd  
will be \$15. Keep watching this space!*

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### DID YOU NOTICE A CHANGE ON THE SECOND PAGE?

We have put the phone numbers of our State representatives under each name on the map. The reason for this is so the members have someone closer to home to contact with information for the newsletter or if you need enrollment forms for ALDECC. We hope this will help everyone keep in touch. We all like hearing what everyone is up to now that most of us are off the road!

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### They have passed on

John Blanch has passed away. Unfortunately we were unable to contact everyone who knew John and might have wanted to attend the funeral. We have given Nola, his wife, condolences on behalf of all members. John was a past President of ALDECC. "A Coach Captain never lies" was his trademark along with his "Walrus Mustache". John, at age 61, was in hospital having heart surgery, but his heart just didn't want to cope anymore.

We also wish to inform members of the sudden passing of John Wadmore. John was around in the early days of touring with Murray Valley Coaches and Stateliners which, became part of Greyhound. John had a heart attach at home, aged 62. Many a beer was had with John and the mob at the Hampshire in Adelaide. John has been living in Queensland for a number of years.

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### Health Report

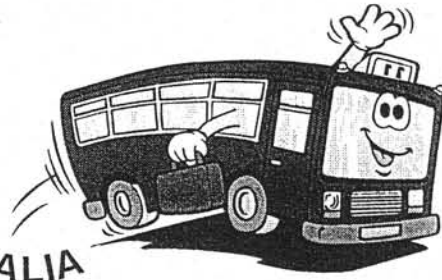
Terry Dawson has been on the "not to good list". Terry will remember Normanton, in Queensland, as the place to end a tour with a pain in the chest, which he really didn't want. Terry had a heart attach. After some quick action he was soon in Mt. Isa hospital and off to Townsville for treatment. He is back in Sydney and sources say doing okay!

Higgo has had breathing problems! After quite a bit of investigating it was discovered he had 2 blocked arteries. When he finally had time to be "away from work" 2 shunts were put in to help the blood flow. It's one thing to tell the Doc. something isn't right, but quite another to let them do something about!

Look after yourselves, guys!

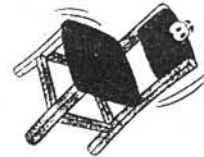
**Life is too short not to take notice when something doesn't feel quite right!!**

## MESSAGES FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA



Have you ever been to PANNAWONICA? Where is it, you ask? Well, if you did the West Coast at all, you would have seen a road sign south of Karratha for this place. Hazie has found it. Yes, Graeme has moved again!! He is now working in the mining area of PANNAWONICA driving the biggest truck he has ever seen! If you stand in the wheel arch you still have to reach up high "NOT" to touch the top of the arch!! The best part about this truck is the **24 year old Bird** who tough him to drive!! She did not have feathers either, according to Hazie!!

Everyone has heard of "Goldy Locks and the 3 Bears". Well, what did she do to baby bears CHAIR?? Break it, Right? Now, what does this have to do with ALDECC, you ask? A certain male member of our group is becoming quite good at this same skill! Quite a number of years ago he started perfecting the skill and now has it down to a fine art!!



According to Peter & Annette Biar, after managing to break "2" chairs in one night, it would be to your advantage to have a milk crate when Hillman comes to visit!!

### TAKE A BOW

Val Mach was just completing a 21 day Perth to Darwin Tour when he was notified of his nomination by **APT** for a **BROLGA 2001 AWARD** in the category of "Outstanding Contribution by an Individual Tourism Industry Employee". Typical Mackie decided his dress attire would consist of polished high heel boots (black), moleskins (white), bush mans shirt (blue) and leather vest (black) and no hat. Can you imagine the reaction when 24 hours before the event Margie informed Val that the dress was strictly **FORMAL!!**

Although times on the road have changed, crew do not carry formal evening wear in their suitcase. After quite a few drinks, Mackie was led to **TUXEDO JUNCTION** and fitted out with a penguin suit!! A sight never seen before and maybe one that will feature in Ruth's evil hands for ALDECC viewing.

Picture this----Darwin 4:30pm & 35\*. Valentine Mack emerges in Tuxedo and a lather of sweat!! On being told he was to walk to the Entertainment Centre, Mackie thought quickly and said "good, there are 3 pubs on the way!" Big mistake, Mackie! A cab was quickly hailed and Mackie was ferried "direct" to the Centre.

After stumbling along the Red Carpet and being shown to his seat, Val found he had to sit until Category NO. 29 (approximately 2 hours!) for the judging and a chance to kiss (or something) the beautiful Catriona Rowatree, master of Ceremonies.

**Val, Congratulations on your nomination!!  
You were pipped in a photo finish by a  
Territorian, but don't let that worry you!!  
We like you as you are, even if you didn't  
get this years Brolga!!**



### **IT'S AMAZING HOW SOME PEOPLE NEVER CHANGE!**

While flying over the ocean blue towards the USA the following jumped off the page.

Mount Hart Wilderness Lodge, which is part of the King Leopold Range Conservation Park, was my last stop before the Gibb River Road ended. Mount Hart is run by **Taffy Abbotts**, who also serves as the station's chef. The homestead sits on four hectares of what looks like a botanical garden.

Taffy looks like the sort of outback character who could survive quite blissfully on cigarettes, warm beer and dried kangaroo meat, but this impression vanishes when you see him in the kitchen. I'd planned to stay only one night at Mount Hart, but after a taste of his *gateau au chocolate* and blackcurrant ice cream, I decided I was in no hurry!

The article goes on to say the weather changed and it was time to move or get stuck in the mud so we are to understand there was no more culinary delights to be had.

What the author didn't realize was his first impression was right!! It's good to know that Taffy hasn't changed any of his **Bad Habits!!**

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### **TASSIE DRIVER'S REUNION 2001**

**May rolled around and once again the driver's reunion was all systems go!!!!!!**

This year it was a weekend of socializing and catching up with friends.

Friday 25th the "EARLY BIRDS" started bending the elbow at 2 o'clock in the afternoon and eased into the evening with a very relaxed meal in the Bistro.

Saturday dawned a promising day so with a bag of snags in one hand, bread and sauce in the other we headed to Punchbowl Reserve for a BBQ. Luckily the weather held and a pleasant afternoon was had by all. Saturday night, the main event went off without a hitch, from pre-dinner drinks to another excellent meal from the kitchen of Sandor's on the Park.

The raffle was another success. Three separate nights accommodation at motels in both Launceston and Hobart, Family passes to Antarctic Division, 5kg box of Cadbury's chocolate. A voucher for dinner at Grindelwald went down a treat. Also lucky door prizes of double passes to Village Cinemas, plus lucky spot prizes of wine, whiskey and garden ornaments. Most of the prizes were donated. The 4.5 liter of Whiskey donated by Ros Sandor for a driver was won by Barry Wilson of Devonport.

To cap the night off a group photo was taken of all the drivers by Ron Nester.

Finishing off the weekend, a farewell "morning tea" on Sunday was the perfect ending.

It was fantastic to see those who came over from the main land, Mary & Alfie Greenham, Ian Gallagher & Sally, Barry Webb & Partner and Joan Reardon. We thank you all for making the trip and hope to see you all again next year---Same time, Same Place 2002. Once again the organizers are "yours truly", Theresa & Geoff. Start saving your pennies now and lets see if we can break the attendance record which stands at 2000-150, 2001- 104 Happy Reunion Guests!!

Regards to all, Theresa & Geoff Able

**PS.** The Ros Sandor Award will again be a 4.5 liter of Whiskey. All you need to do is be a Tour Coach Captain & be at the 2002 reunion!!

**PSS.** Copies of the photo taken at 2001 reunion can be obtained by ringing Theresa & Geoff on 03 6268 0135.

Dear Barb and all at ALDECC,

Hi there! I hope the weather down South is not getting too cold yet! Our wet season was very long and wet, but May has turned out to be beautiful with days around 29\* and nights 19\* or 20\*. I'm still working at the Golf Shop at the Mossman Golf Club and enjoying it very much. For a keen golfer like me it's an ideal job! I'm looking forward to the next six months when the weathers good. I should be able to get quite a bit of golf in during this time. I'm not able to get to every reunion, but I can assure you that I am thinking of everyone, especially on the reunion weekend. I hope to be at another reunion soon!!

Regards, Geoff Jamieson



### ANYONE FOR GOLF?

A couple went golfing one day at a very exclusive course lined with million dollar homes. On the third tee, the husband cautioned, "Honey, be careful when you drive. If we break one of those windows it'll cost us a fortune to repair."

Of course, she teed off and promptly shanked it right through the window of the biggest house on the course. The husband cringed, "I warned you to watch out! Now we'll have to go up there and apologize and see how much that lousy drive is going to cost us."

They walked up, knocked on the door and a warm voice said, "Come on in."

When they opened the door they saw glass all over the place and a broken antique bottle lying on its side near the broken window. A man reclining on the couch asked, "Are you the people that broke the window?"

"Uh..., yeah, we're sure sorry about that," the husband replied.

"Oh, no apology is necessary. Actually I want to thank you. You see, I'm a Genie and I've been trapped in that bottle for a thousand years. Now that you've released me, I'm allowed to grant three wishes. I'll give you each one wish and I'll keep the last one for myself."

"Wow, that's great!" the husband said. He pondered a moment and blurted out, "I'd like a million dollars a year for the rest of my life."

"No problems", said the Genie, "You've got it. I have already put a million dollars in your bank account. It's the least I can do." "Now you, young lady, what do you want?"

"I'd like to own a gorgeous home complete with servants in every country in the world." she said.

"Consider it done. The deeds are now in your name." the Genie said.

"And now," the couple asked in unison, "What's your wish, Genie?"

"Well, since I've been trapped in that bottle and haven't been with a woman in a thousand years, my wish is to have sex with your wife."

The Husband looked at his wife and said, "Gee, honey, you know we both now have a fortune, and all those houses. What do you think?"

She mulled it over for a few moments and said, "You know you're right. Considering all that, I guess I wouldn't mind."

The Genie and the woman went upstairs where he ravished her for the rest of the afternoon. Both satisfied each other repeatedly and afterwards the Genie rolled over and looked at the wife and asked, "How old are you and your husband?"

"Why, we're both 35," she responded breathlessly.

"Your both 35 years old and you still believe in GENIES?????!!!"

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**Accommodated Tour Escorts**  
**If your looking for casual work escorting tours to New Zealand**  
**Send your Resume to**  
**Greg Reid**  
**9 Herod Place, Attwood 3049**  
**mobile 0418 491 119**

The committee takes no responsibility for this article. It was sent to the Secretary with a note:

"This article WILL be of interest to some of our members!"

# Destiny is fulfilled in eatery

FOR Phil Hellyer and Kay Matthews, the road to the Bluegrass Restaurant was clearly one of destiny.

Once the owner of Mount Dare Homestead, south of Finke, Phil operated an accommodation and tourist facility for people crossing the Simpson Desert.

Kay trained as a teacher in Adelaide before giving it up to go travelling to Europe.

While working in restaurants on the Greek Island of Rhodes, she landed a job as personal assistant to the Gilmore family of Pink Floyd fame.

The Gilmore gig took her to England before she returned to Greece and then back to Australia.

## Manager

On her return she was appointed manager of the Mount Dare Homestead, co-ordinating the facility's daily operations.

Last year, Phil sold the homestead and the couple spent some time travelling overseas.

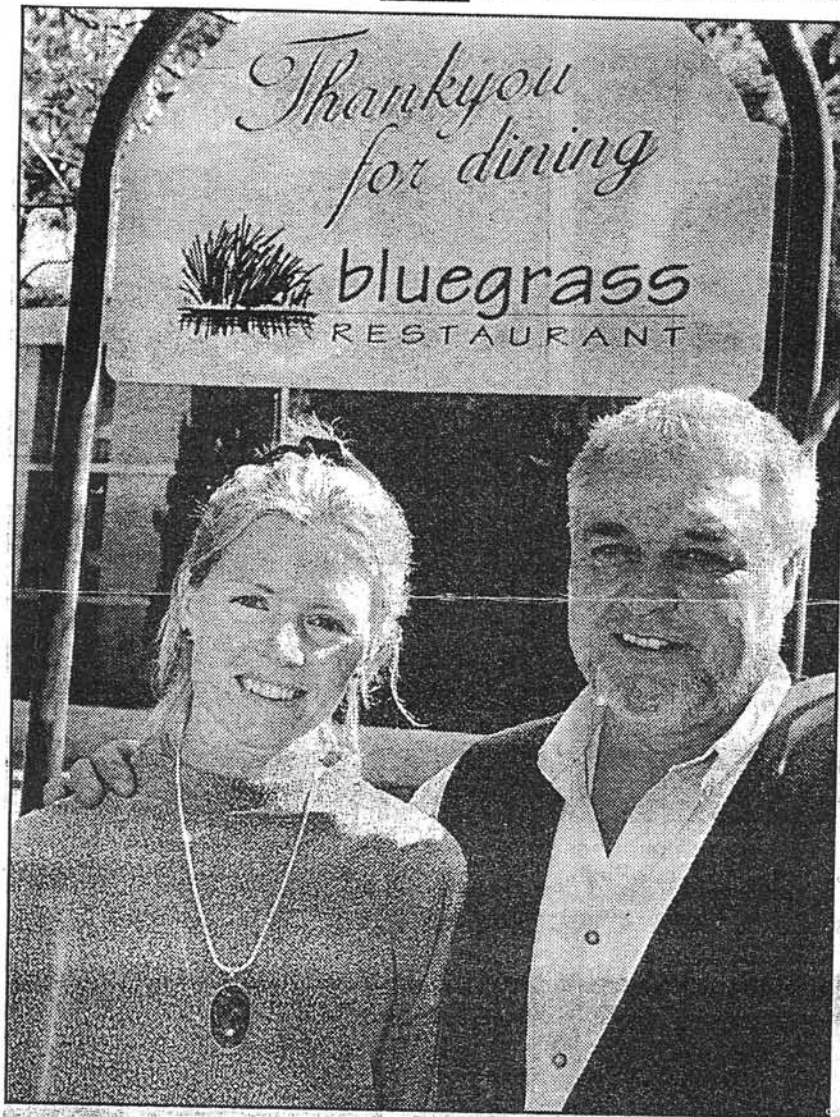
Phil said: "After working flat out, we needed a break and time to figure out what we both wanted to do next.

"It was once we'd returned to Alice Springs that everything just fell into place.

"We came here for dinner in February, under the old management, and I thought 'what a fantastic location, imagine what could be done with this place'.

"Kay agreed so I told the owners, if they ever wanted to sell it, we would be interested.

"As it turned out, they did and the rest is history."



Bluegrass Restaurant owners Kay Matthews and Phil Hellyer.

## Focus on dining pleasure

EXPERIENCE and a staunch belief in their product are the driving forces behind Bluegrass Restaurant owners Phil Hellyer and Kay Matthews.

Combining their respective backgrounds, a passion for eating out and a love of the job were their secret weapons when embarking upon the Bluegrass venture.

They had insider information to help them understand what people want from a restaurant.

Phil said: "We give the same service we would expect when eating out."

The restaurant's theme is directed to locals, not the tourist market, steering clear of the Outback Australia tag.

It aims to keep its standards high and costs reasonable, never scrimping on quality of service, presentation, selection and choice.

Both lunchtime and evening dining is available allowing for patrons to enjoy a lazy lunch in the warm afternoon sunshine or

### Open times

Bluegrass Restaurant is open six days a week from 11.30am to 3pm for lunch and 6pm til late for dinner. It is closed on Tuesdays.

Bookings are advisable to secure seating, particularly in one of its cosy booths, but not essential.

The restaurant is holding a Sunday brunch, Crown Lager special this weekend at \$4 each.

a cosy, romantic evening extravaganza.

Helping Kay and Phil deliver the Bluegrass taste to diners is chef Jane Booth.

Bluegrass' wine list and menu is one of the most superior and varied in Alice Springs.

The menu includes Mediterranean and Australasian dishes and the wine is sourced from award-winning vineyards around Australia.

Patronage is convenient due



Chef Jane Booth

to the restaurant's location and private car park.

Phil said: "Bluegrass is a package - quality and convenience.

"Whether you are from Alice, Sydney or Melbourne, you will not be disappointed in the Bluegrass experience."