

ALDECC 2002



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Annual Subscription: \$15 (Couple \$20) Next Due: 1 Feb, 2003
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**

Hello to all our members and their families,

I hope you are all in good health or at least looking after your health and looking forward to our reunion in 2003!! By finding a new venue and making the price a bit cheaper for families and everyone else, I hope to see lots of new and old faces join us.

It's hard to believe it's Spring already. Time goes by very fast the closer we get.

For those of you no longer in the tourist industry, I say "Good Luck to You". It's a very hard industry to make any money in now a days let alone enjoy yourselves, like we used to. Insurance is over the top and the new regulations would drive you up the wall. Come and join us at Kismet Riverside Lodge and have your say.

Regards, Higgs

ALDECC REUNION

Jan. 31, Feb. 1 & 2, 2003

The cost for the weekend is as follows:

Motel & Cabin units

(includes towels & bedding)

Full weekend Adults \$110

Full weekend children under 12 \$45

One night Adults \$70

One night Children under 12 \$25

Powered (Bring your own Caravan) sights

Full weekend Adults \$70

Full weekend Children under 12 \$30

One night Adults \$55

One night Children under 12 \$20

These prices include all meals and supper Friday and Saturday nights as in the past. Pre-booking form on the back of the newsletter. Send \$20 deposit or installment payment.

Where is Kismet Riverside Lodge?

Kismet Riverside Lodge is on the western side of Howlong in NSW on the banks of the Murray River. Easy to get to from all directions.

ANNUAL ALDECC GOLF AFTERNOON

Saturday February 1st, 2003 starting at 2:30pm.

The booking information will be in our last newsletter for this year. Howlong Country Club is the venue for the 9 hole Ambrose competition. Final details next time.

Our plans are just about complete for the reunion. We are looking forward to seeing everyone in 2003, so we hope your plans include the ALDECC REUNION as well.

Cheers to all, Barb & committee

MESSAGES FROM AROUND AUSTRALIA



Message from Ireland

Sept. 9th. Currently in Galway, Killarney tomorrow!

Dear ALDECCER'S,

What a "hooley" this place is, especially when cruising down from Donegal to Westport and the whole hatch cover comes loose and flies off the coach into the field!!! Better still, watch a 6' 4" Cork Coach Driver inside with the hatch in hand thinking about how to fix it and not p--s oneself laughing!! Having a Ball!!

The picture on the postcard Ruth Carmichael has sent says **RUSH HOUR IRELAND!** *There is a mob of sheep and a tractor on the road with lovely green country around.* Come to the reunion and find out from Ruth how her trip went!! We are sure she is **HAVING A BALL!!**

Did you see "Australian Story" several weeks ago?

Janice Horton rang to say "Guess who was on Australian Story?" The show started and there in front of the eyes of all Australia was "Taffy Abbott"! He's "married" to a young woman that was very young when our mate "Taffy" was on the road!! He is sure making the news what with being in the Qantas magazine last year for all the travelers to read about and now his new life with Annabell. He is still at Mount Hart in Northern W.A.

Where have they gone?

Mike Scrafton's name jumped up at Sandra Plunket when the "Children over board affair" was in the news. Sandra said she often wondered what he was up to, well he "was" Military adviser to Peter Reith!! This is a bit of a change to the happy times with "Scruffy" who claimed to have visited almost every "PUB" in the country and thrown out of most!

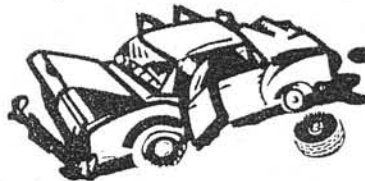
"Be Prepared"

When you have been on the "road" in the tourist industry in Australia, you should learn one thing, "Be Prepared", Right? Well, a member of our committee decided to take a female tourist on a car trip in the general direction of Rosemary & Graeme Trease & the kids. "O my, we have a flat tyre. I can fix this."

Guess what? **There's no jack or wheel brace!**

Rosemary gets a message on an almost dead mobile phone, "We're around the Grand Ridge Rd. near the Tarra Valley area on a fire road."

Greeley will always be thankful to Graeme for knowing his own back yard well enough to find them in the almost dark, on a fire road, of which there are many, along way from most things. With the help of Graeme's jack and wheel brace all was well and they arrived at the Trease household for a very late dinner!



Xmas wish for Greeley, one jack & wheel brace!



3rd. Annual Driver's Reunion

Our Driver's Reunion was held on Friday May 31st. to Sunday June 2nd, 2002.

We gathered in the Monkey Bar of Sandor's on the Park in Launceston and enjoyed a relaxing meal and a few drinks with those who choose to make a weekend of it and caught up on the past 12 months.

Saturday we managed to score another perfect day and we once again headed for Punchbowl Reserve for a lunch time BBQ. For those who joined us we were very happy to see Wayne Mackrel, out of hospital for the afternoon, who had come to join us.

Our evening was another success even though we were a smaller group (around 57). We also want to thank Ros Sandor yet again for another fantastic meal and her donation of several bottles of "Goodies" that were given away throughout the night, as well as a nights accommodation at the Grand Chancellor Hobart donated by Steve McCormick.

We finished off with morning tea on Sunday before we parted and went our separate ways with promises to see everyone again next year.

We had an impromptu meeting on Saturday night to floor a few issues that had arisen.

The general consensus was as follows:

- * We drop the word "Reunion" in favor of "Annual Dinner. Next year will be:

Tasmanian Coach Captains Annual Dinner 2003

- * There will be no change to the venue at this stage. Launceston and Sandor's on the Park is the most suitable and central place for everyone.
- * Some form of entertainment or event May be organized for the Annual Dinner as something else to look forward too.
- * As you may or may not know, our Reunions, come Annual Dinners, are not only for coach captains, but also cooks, hostesses and tourist operators as a chance for all to get together as friends and catch up on old and new times. We want and need members to join us and come to our dinners so it was agreed by all at this years dinner to make a extra effort to encourage others to come. If you know of other people who would like to join us or you would like to come send us the addresses to the address below. Only by keeping our numbers up is it worth while putting the Annual Dinner together every year.
- * Last but not least, it was agreed that a small cover charge per head would be put in place to help cover the cost of organizing for some Annual Dinners depending on the type of entertainment or event.

Regards to you all,

Theresa & Geoff Abel
7 Idas Court,
St. Helens. Tas. 7216
Phone 03 6376 1196

Message from Alice Springs

G'day. Long time no see! Thought I should drop a line to say "HI" and let everyone know where I am. I'm now living in Alice Springs and working for a local company, Emu Run, doing local tours around the Centre. Occasionally I run into "old members" of ALDECC. Met John Stanley and Paul Beams not so long ago.

Regards to all, Ron Johnston

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Not long after the last newsletter came out, we received notification of the following people passing away.

Wayne Mackrel died on July 16th. As you would have read in the letter from Tas. by Geoff Able, Wayne did make it to part of their reunion. Rest in peace without pain.

Mary Kirk's Mum has passed away. She has not been well for a long while. Our thoughts are with you Mary, and your family.

Doug Lever lost his Dad earlier this year. We send our thoughts to you and the family.

Val Mack has lost a son. We send our thoughts to you and the family.

For those of you who worked at Australian Pacific, you would remember Myre Page's mother. She passed away at 92 the other week.

## ~~~~~ How Old is Grandma?

One evening a grandson was talking to his grandma about current events. The grandson asked his grandma what she thought about the shootings at schools, the computer age, and just things in general.

### Grandma replied,

"Well, let me think a minute, I was born before TV, Penicillin, polio shots, frozen food, contact lenses, Frisbees and the pill. There were no credit cards, laser beams or ball-point pens. Man had not invented pantyhose, air conditioners, dishwashers or clothes dryers. The clothes were hung out to dry in the fresh air and man had yet to walk on the moon.

Your Grandpa and I got married first and then lived together. Most families had a Mother and Father. Until I was 25, I called every man older than me, "Sir" and after I turned 25, I still called policemen "Sir". We were before gay-rights, computer-dating, dual careers, day care centers and group therapy.

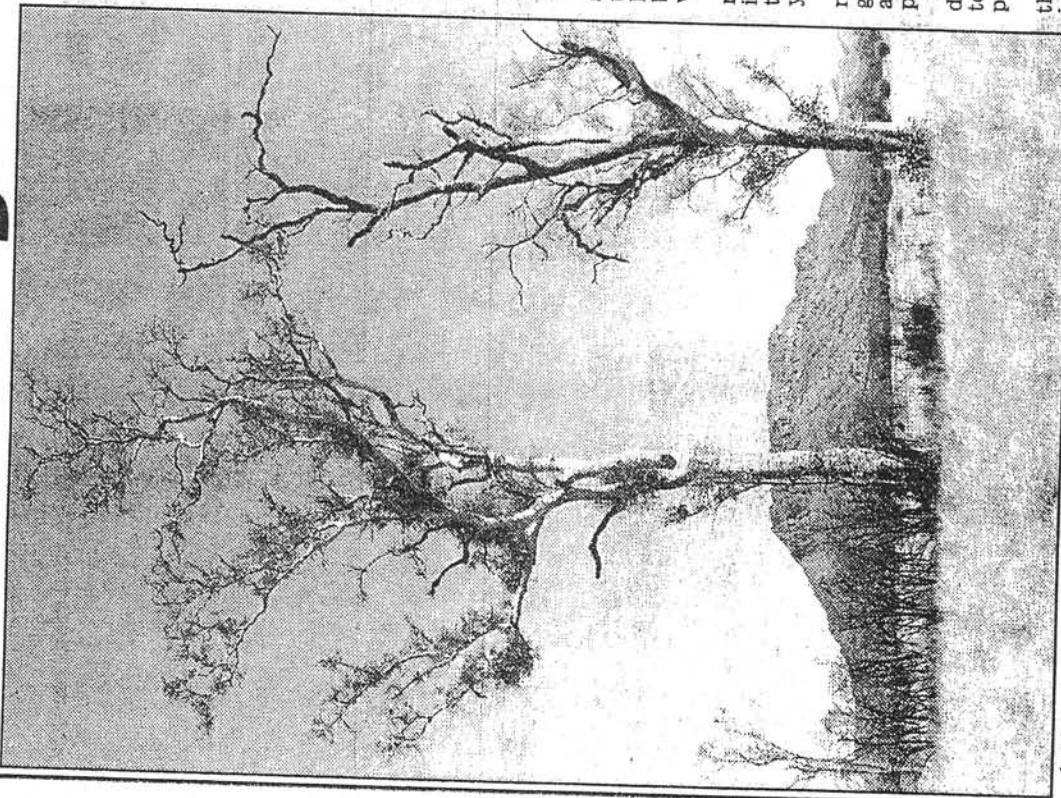
Our lives were governed by the Ten Commandments, good judgment and common sense. We were taught to know the difference between right and wrong and to stand up and take responsibility for our actions.

We thought fast food was what people ate before Lent. Having a meaningful relationship meant getting along with cousins. Draft dodgers were people who closed their front doors when the evening breeze started. Time-sharing meant time the family spent together. We never heard of FM radio, tape decks, CDs, electric typewriters, yogurt or guys wearing earrings.

We listened to the Big Bands, Jake Benny, and political speeches on our radios. I don't remember any kids blowing their brains out listening to Tommy Dorsey or Glen Miller. Anything with "made in Japan" on it, it was junk. The term "making out" referred to how you did on your school exams. In my day "grass" you mowed and "coke" was a drink and a "Pot" was what you cooked in. "Aids" were helpers in the Principal's office, "chip" was a piece of wood, "hardware" you got from a hardware store and the word "software" wasn't a word. In my generation a lady needed a husband to have a baby. No wonder people call us "**Old & Confused**" and say there's a generation gap!"

**This woman would only be 58 years old!**

# Namitjira's 'twins' on death's door



In this photo taken yesterday the tree on the left is already dead.

By GLENN MORRISON

**ALICE Springs famous twin gums are dying and may end up as firewood.**

The once picturesque eucalyptus, the subject of a famous Albert Namatjira painting, sit in a sea of buffel grass near Simpson's Gap, 15km west of Alice Springs.

One tree is already dead and the other sports only a few struggling leaves and is described by tree experts as "very sick".

A nearby third ghost gum, once a close and healthy companion of the famous pair, has finally keeled over. Chainsaw cuts in its branches tell of its fate as firewood.

Still touted as a Central Australian tourist attraction, the dying ghost gums are visited by thousands of holiday makers each year.

But the site is a monument to neglect and environmental degradation and visitors to the well-advertised spot come away disappointed.

After viewing the dead and dying twin trees they usually turn to a stone memorial in the car parking area near the twins.

But a plaque bearing witness to the pair, and Namatjira's painting, was torn from the stone years ago, leaving a bare space that speaks only of neglect.

they are disappointed. It is hard to even recognise them as the same trees."

In good health the trees seemed to be of exactly the same shape when viewed from a certain angle - hence their name twin gums.

Mr Nelson said: "When you drove along the road and saw them in a line they appeared to be only one tree."

But the gums have not had it easy.

He said: "They once were nearly completely defoliated by a processionary caterpillar. But (horticulturalist) Frank McEllister worked to save them and the trees came back."

But since then one tree has died and the other is ill.

Buffel grass, and its high burning temperatures have often been dubbed the culprit in ghost gum destruction.

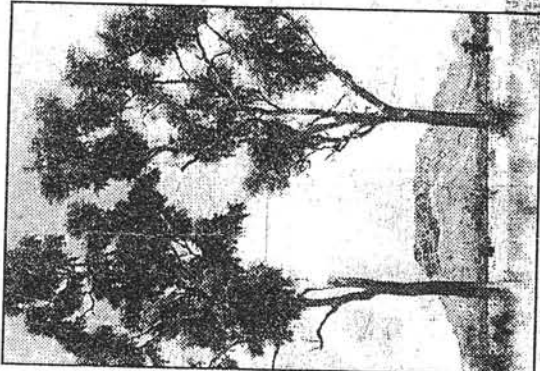
However it is unclear in the case of the twin gums just what is responsible.

Mr Nelson said: "Buffel grass would certainly kill a ghost gum, which buffel is a very very hot fire."

But Chris Day confirmed the trees were unharmed in last year's fires that blazed through Simpson's Gap.

Some trees simply die of old age, said Mr Day.

The trees are not within Parks and Wildlife jurisdiction.



In year's past the twin gums were flourishing.

Alice Springs retired botanist Des Nelson is familiar with the trees and their decline.

He said: "They were once the most beautiful trees I have ever seen. It is a shame as far as a scenic feature is concerned."

Nearby Simpson's Gap's park ranger Chris Day said the site was a disappointment to visitors.

He said: "We get a lot of feedback from tourists about how

# ALDECC REUNION

JAN. 31, FEB. 1 & 2, 2003

## Motel & Cabin Units (includes towels & bedding)

Full weekend Adults \$110 Children under 12 \$45  
One night Adults \$70 Children under 12 \$25

## Powered (Bring your own caravan) sights

Full weekend Adults \$70 Children under 12 \$30  
One night Adults \$55 Children under 12 \$20

Please book (tick style wanted) Motel \_\_\_ Cabin \_\_\_ Powered Sight \_\_\_

Members Name \_\_\_\_\_

Other Adults Names \_\_\_\_\_

Children 12 & over Names \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Children under 12 Names \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Include a booking deposit of at least \$20